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Tree To Green

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President's Message

Association Business— and Beyond

*Don't miss our Summer
Social on July 9 at
Siwanoy Country Club!*



In talking with a number of association members, it seems that everyone has made it through the first wave of Hyperodes and are now preparing for the next generation, as well as for weathering the “dog days of summer.”

Well, if it helps any, your board is right in there with you. But in addition to battenning down the hatches for the season ahead, we are also trying to plan a few fun-filled activities to get our minds off the grass for an afternoon or evening. (Yeah, right. All our spouses know we stand around and compare notes all night, but that's not to say we can't still have some fun!)

Something for Everyone

Please don't miss out on some of the social and golf activities that are coming up very soon. Your Social Chairman, Bob Wolverton; Tournament Chairman, Tony Hooks; and Scholarship Chairman, Glen Dube have put together a relaxed and family-friendly lineup of activities that promise a good time, so please mark your calendars. Four of our events will take place on Tuesdays in July and August. The first is our Summer Social on July 9 at Siwanoy Country Club. (See profile on page 10.) Bring out your significant other or come on your own. There will be plenty of others who are solo. And don't forget to invite your assistants for a great night of food, libations, and dancing.

On July 16, we have the Nine and Dine: Superintendent/Guest Tournament. This popular nine-hole golf event will be held this year at Pelham Country Club. (See profile on page 11.) In its second year, the event offers members the opportunity to play a relaxing nine holes after the workday's done. It's also another opportunity for assistants and new and prospective members to come out and get to know one another.

The following week, we have our Summer Picnic being held at Paramount Country Club in New City, NY, just a few minutes over the Tappan Zee Bridge. (See profile on page 12.) Certainly, this event is about the kids, but even if you're an empty nester, you'll enjoy an evening out with fellow members—and may even feel inspired to partici-



**Blake Halderman, CGCSA
MetGCSA President**

pate in the activities Bob Wolverton has planned for juniors and seniors alike!

Finally, Glen Dube is organizing the Parent/Child Scholarship Tournament at Mosholu on August 6. This is a low-key, nine-hole golf event that will be run in conjunction with the scholarship award presentations to our deserving winners. Like the others, this is a must-attend event. Personally, this one is the highlight of my season. There's nothing better than being able to get out and play a fun-filled nine-hole scramble with my son on a very kid-friendly course. This event—like the picnic—is for all ages, so I really hope you all take advantage of the board's hard work—not to mention the special efforts of our host superintendents who so graciously invited us to their facilities. I hope to see you there!

New Executive Secretary Named

On board to take care of our association business is Susan O'Dowd, who has been named by the MGA to replace our outgoing executive secretary, Ineke Pierpoint. Ineke is currently working three days a week to train and help Susan get up-to-speed with the operation at MGA Headquarters. Susan is well-versed in all types of bookkeeping and administrative duties and has served on the board of the Executive Women's Golf Association (EWGA) for the past two years, doing everything from taking minutes to organizing golf events, setting up clinics, and captaining the leagues. With Susan's background and passion for the game of golf, I am positive she will be a great asset to our association.

If you haven't had the occasion to meet Susan at headquarters, you're sure to see her soon at one of our upcoming functions. Be sure to give her a warm welcome!

continued on page 7

Spreading the Good

World Golf Foundation's Steve Mona Discusses WE ARE GOLF's Role in Promoting the Game's Many Benefits

by Ed Brockner, MetGCSA Executive Director



In June 8, St. Andrew's Golf Club in Hastings-on-Hudson, NY, celebrated its 125th anniversary, marking its founding as the first incorporated golf club in the United States. This is where John Reid earned the title "Father of American Golf" for his lead role in not just the formation of St. Andrews, but also the introduction of the game that has now become a \$70-billion business in the U.S. with more than 25 million players! An outcome I'm sure Reid would never have imagined.

Sadly, despite the size and scope of the industry and the fact that people from all walks of life enjoy and benefit from the game, golf is still thought of by many as an elitist niche sport.

Stephen Mona, CEO of the World Golf Foundation, is working to change that. Familiar to those in the turf profession as the long-time leader of the GCSAA, Mona visited New York City earlier this year to promote WE ARE GOLF, an initiative created to build public awareness of the game's economic, environmental, health, and charitable benefits.

Among the game's most forward-thinking and passionate advocates, Mona, along with a coalition of leading golf industry associations and partners, has been working to spread the word about golf's greatness to the population-at-large through WE ARE GOLF and other industry initiatives.

Steve Mona, CEO of the World Golf Foundation, speaks with Caleb Clark, a student golfer in First Tee of Washington, DC. Photographer: Stephanie Green/Bloomberg.

Word About Golf



I had the fortunate opportunity to speak with Steve Mona during his stay in New York and am pleased, now, to share his thoughts on how WE ARE GOLF and other initiatives can—and will—change the face of golf in our country.

WE ARE GOLF Takes Flight

For the uninitiated, the WE ARE GOLF campaign is driven by a coalition of the game's leading associations that are working collectively to advocate for the game of golf and the golf industry. One of the group's favorite venues for their campaign is the National Golf Day event that takes place every April in Washington, DC. It's there that they devote their efforts to helping government leaders understand the numerous benefits that the game of golf and the golf industry have on the United States, pointing, in particular, to statistics backing up the industry's vast economic impact.

"At our first National Golf Day in Washington," says Mona, "we were distinctly aware of the perception that golf is a narrow industry and that there was not a great deal of understanding about the economic impact of golf. By pulling all of golf's major organizations together as a collective body, we were able to reach consensus on the key issues we should target and then determine the best course of action for delivering our message to the public about the many benefits of golf."

This past April, Mona and fellow leaders from around the country took part in National Golf Day once again. There to see Mona and the WE ARE GOLF coalition in action was Bedford Golf & Tennis Superintendent Bob Nielsen, who serves as the MetGCSA's Government Relations chair and who has also assumed the role of advocate for New York State golf course superintendents at the Turfgrass Advocacy Day held in Albany each year.

"Steve Mona has always known the importance of advocacy in our industry," says Bob, "and his allegiance to golf course superintendents has not waned since his departure as CEO of the GCSAA. In his new role as the head of the World Golf Foundation, he has helped elevate National Golf Day to its

current status, and he's provided a model for our efforts on the local and state levels."



Publicizing Golf's Positive Economic Impact

One of the primary messages of WE ARE GOLF, and the National Golf Day, is to articulate the significant economic impact the game of golf has on our country, and the scope of the industry as an employer of nearly two million individuals in various aspects of the industry. These jobs provide more than \$55 billion in wage income at more than 15,000 golf facilities throughout the country, not to mention the countless vendors and suppliers who provide products to sustain these locations.

Right here in the tri-state area—New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut—golf employs nearly 100,000 people and infuses the economy with close to \$10 billion annually. Working to educate the 90 percent of the nongolfing population about the tremendous boost golf gives to our local and state economies is vital; it is a message that must be shared.

During the course of our conversation, Mona noted that one of the major stumbling blocks to getting our message out to the general public is the golf industry's focus on making its case *internally*—in other words, to others *within* the industry. One of the primary goals of WE ARE GOLF, therefore, is to communicate the benefits of the game *externally*. "We need to address our target audience and make our case," says Mona. "That means reaching out to media

that appeal to the broader public and publicizing the many benefits of the game."

Growing the Game and Positive Perceptions

While the number of individuals who play golf sounds impressive at 25 million, the game has been struggling to increase participation in recent years. The time and cost associated with learning the game are two major obstacles to growth, as well as contributing factors to the general public's perception that the game is an inaccessible, "elitist" sport.

But Steve Mona and the World Golf Foundation introduced a way to break through these barriers and reach the general public with its GET GOLF READY program. Initiated in 2009, the program is designed to bring new golfers—and former golfers—into the game by providing reasonable education and instruction at golf facilities throughout the U.S. that have been certified to participate in the program.



Partnering with the PGA of America, WE ARE GOLF is now promoting the Get Golf Ready platform by seeking the participation and support of golf professionals at facilities throughout the country. Although the program is relatively new, it is showing great results in attracting and keeping new golfers.

"There are more than 3,000 certified facilities, and there have already been some 75,000 'graduates' of Get Golf Ready," notes Mona. "Our studies have found that 80 percent of these individuals have stayed with the game and have spent an average of \$1,000

each at these participating facilities.”

An ambitious program but clearly a great idea for enhancing the public's perception of the game, while stimulating the golf industry—particularly as the economy continues to recover.



Promoting Golf as a Health Pursuit

We all know that getting out in the fresh air and walking offers both physical—and mind/body—benefits. And what better way to engage in this kind of activity than playing golf? Encouraging people to recognize this underrated aspect of the game is another important step in gaining more devotees.

In an attempt to accurately communicate golf's health benefits, in 2012, the World Golf Foundation and Golf 20/20 commissioned The Walker Research Group to identify and report on the health and wellness benefits of golf. Here are a few of their key findings:

- An 18-hole round, carrying a bag or using a hand/pull cart, is almost equal to a 5-mile walk.
- When carrying clubs while walking an 18-hole round, you burn about 2,000 calories. When riding in a cart, you burn about 1,300.
- When walking 18-holes of golf, blood glucose levels fall by up to 20 percent for the young, 10 percent for the middle-aged, and 30 percent for elderly players, and bodyweight is slightly reduced for all groups.
- Studies show that burning 2,500 calories a week improves your overall health by lowering your risk of heart disease, diabetes, and cancer.
- Repeated golf practice enhances balance control among all ages.
- Regardless of handicap, sex, or course played, golfers exceed 10,000 steps during a typical round of golf, which meets the guideline for exercise recommended by most medical and clinical physicians.

Now all we have to do is spread the good word!

Demonstrating Environmental Responsibility

Speaking of spreading the good word, despite the best efforts of golf course superintendents to communicate to their communities and memberships the environmental benefits that golf courses provide, there are lingering, sometimes damaging misperceptions of golf courses and their maintenance practices. Steve Mona and WE ARE GOLF are working to educate the public about the many environmental benefits golf courses have to offer.

“We all know that when managed in a responsible and professional manner,” says Mona, “golf courses have proved to actually enhance the environment, providing a great habitat for wildlife, improved air quality, a system for filtering rainwater and capturing and cleansing runoff in urban areas, and so much more.”

Mona was highly complimentary of our association's efforts to elevate the perception of our maintenance practices and commitment to the environment. He was particularly impressed with the leadership role we've assumed with the New York State BMP initiative, projecting its far-reaching benefits to our industry as a whole.

“When local superintendent organizations conduct research and educational programs and then work to publicize the knowledge and expertise that come from these initiatives, they can't help but assist in enhancing the perception of the game,” says Mona.



Superintendent and MetGCSA Environmental Committee Chair Ken Benoit has taken environmental stewardship—and community education—to a new level at GlenArbor Golf Club in Bedford Hills, NY. In 2009, Ken and the club developed an Environmental Enhancement Program (EEP), which is a half-day program designed to teach school children the importance of environmental stewardship, while explaining how golf courses are a perfect fit for communities that place a high value on open space and sustaining natural wildlife habitats. Still in place, the program offers

children the opportunity to learn about bluebirds thriving on the course, take soil samples, watch a live beehive demonstration, and then enjoy a hayride with their classmates.

By reaching out in this manner, and actively engaging local leaders and educators in the golf course environment, superintendents can share the highly positive aspects of golf and allow the public to see, firsthand, all that responsibly maintained courses can and do provide. (See article on next page, for another course's approach to educating others about the environmental benefits of golf courses.)

Communicating Golf's Charitable Contributions

While there is a lot of talk about golf's economic, environmental, and health benefits, there's little said about another of golf's important contributions to society: its role in fundraising efforts.

Think how many fundraisers—for everything from school scholarships to medical research and every other nonprofit cause under the sun—take place on a golf course. Golf outings have long provided the perfect venue for supporters of these causes to open up their wallets.

“More than \$4 billion was raised to fund charity last year alone,” says Mona. “And some 12 million individuals participated in more than 140,000 events that benefited nonprofits throughout the United States.”

From the millions that are raised as part of the PGA TOUR's program each year down to the nine-hole outing for the township fire department, golf's ability to bring people together toward a common goal is unmatched in the charitable world as a way to encourage generosity.

Our Role Closer to Home

While all of these industry numbers are impressive and certainly speak to the game's tremendous positive impact on a macro level, it is up to us to do our part on a local level... making sure we aren't just preaching to the choir, but acting as evangelists, here and now, for the game.

Our work with Cornell educators and New York State golf course superintendent associations in developing a manual of BMPs for New York State Golf Courses is just one example of how we can—and will—drive home a positive message about the game throughout our communities and states.

Just as John Reid, the namesake of our association's distinguished service award, played a significant role in bringing golf to America more than a 125 years ago, we can play a leading part in ensuring the game continues to grow and prosper well into the future.

A Golf Course Experience That Makes a Lasting—and Positive—Impression

by Kevin Doyle, GCSAA Field Staff—Northeast Region



Forest Hill Field Club head superintendent Frank Tichenor speaks to fifth-graders from Clifton School No. 16 earlier this month as part of the first "First Green" program to show kids the agricultural side of golf.

A golf course superintendent in the tri-state area, Frank Tichenor of Forest Hill Field Club in Bloomfield, NJ, recently conducted an educational program at his golf course for a group of 40 fifth graders. Without a formal program in place for educating eager young students about the science of golf course management, Frank was put in touch with The First Green Foundation of Bellevue, WA, which had developed a learning program that even went so far as to include a packet containing simple science-based experiments designed for use at a golf facility.

Embedded in the science lesson was an opportunity to educate students about golf courses' positive relationship with the environment. The students learned about pond management, wildlife habitats, and weather station use. Cultural practices, including an aeration demonstration, were discussed as a part of agronomic practices designed to improve plant health.

The students were given a tour of all parts of the facility, which included short talks about future career options in all aspects of the golf industry (even as a GCSAA field staff member!). While Tichenor and fellow Forest Hill employees had worked with fifth grade teacher Dawn Payton to develop an agenda for the day, the students were really the ones whose interest in various aspects of

the course and environment dictated the path of the program.

Who knew that the topdressing sand pile would be a highlight, or that a lengthy discussion would take place about the now two-foot-long grass carp placed in the irrigation ponds to eat algae? The first-ever First Green event on the East Coast was, by all accounts, a great success. As the grand finale, the students were even given the opportunity to hit balls at the range and learn putting tips from the facility head professional. When asked how they felt about their experience at the course, they were nothing short of excited, and all expressed what a great learning experience the day had been.

Tichenor noted that The First Green estimates each student would reference golf 30 to 40 times because of the experience they had in one day at his facility. This type of event clearly goes a long way in communicating the benefits of golf and the golf course management industry to the general public. After all, kids come home after a day like this and tell their parents, who might actually then tell others.

Have you ever thought about conducting an event like this at your facility? For more information, contact The First Green Foundation at www.thefirstgreen.org. Help spread the good word about golf.

About Stephen F. Mona . . . CEO, World Golf Foundation



Stephen "Steve" F. Mona, 56, has established a strong career record of service to the golf industry. He served as tournament director of the Northern California Golf Association from September 1980 to January 1982. Mona then became assistant manager of press relations for the USGA from January 1982 to June 1983, at which time he became executive director of the Georgia State Golf Association. In November 1993, he became the CEO of the GCSAA, a position he held until March 2008 when he assumed his current role as CEO of the World Golf Foundation.

In Mona's current position, his responsibilities include overall management of the foundation, as well as overseeing the foundation's industry relationships and ongoing global focus.

Mona's been tapped to serve on more than a dozen association boards and councils in and out of the golf industry, and his accomplishments haven't gone without recognition. In 2008, he was inducted into the Tri-Valley (San Francisco Bay area) Sports Hall of Fame. The International Association of Golf Administrators (IAGA) named him their 2008 Distinguished Service Award recipient. In the Fall 2011 issue of *Golf Inc.*, Mona was selected for the magazine's "Most Powerful People in Golf" list for the 11th consecutive year. In 1999, *Golf Digest* listed Mona as one of the golf industry's "Most Powerful People in Golf." Only one person younger than Mona, Tiger Woods at No. 2, was ranked higher at the time. In 1997, the Kansas City Society of Association Executives named Mona Association Executive of the Year.

A native of New York, Mona received a bachelor's degree in journalism (cum laude) from San Jose (California) State University in 1980. Mona lives in Ponte Vedra Beach, FL, with his wife, Cyndi. They have three children—Kin, Stephen, and Meredith—and four grandchildren—Lincoln, Mia, Cooper, and Pace.

Upcoming Events

Plan NOW for These Upcoming Events!

Summer Social

Tuesday, July 9
Siwanoy Country Club
Bronxville, NY
Host: Steven McGlone

Nine and Dine: Superintendent/ 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
Call 973-812-6467 or visit
www.njturfgrass.org 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. You will also have the
opportunity to view displays and demon-
strations from turf industry vendors and en-
joy a barbecue lunch, which 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.

Turf & Grounds Exposition

Tuesday–Thursday, November 12 – 14
Rochester Riverside Convention Center
Rochester, NY
The Turf & Grounds Exposition offers an
excellent opportunity to network while re-
maining current on the latest research and
trends in turfgrass management. As always,
the expo will feature key speakers from all
segments of the green industry, as well as a
comprehensive trade show with more than
100 exhibitors.

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

MetGCSA/CAGCS Fall Seminar

Wednesday, December 4
The Patterson Club
Fairfield, CT
Host: Jason Meersman
Save the date, and watch for details.

38th Annual New Jersey Green Expo Turf and Landscape Conference

Tuesday – Thursday, December 10 – 12
Trump Taj Mahal Resort Casino
Atlantic City, NJ
The New Jersey Green Expo offers a com-
prehensive educational program providing
cutting-edge applications and tactics to
guarantee green industry professionals' suc-
cess on the job. Offering one of the largest
trade shows in the tri-state area, the expo
also provides attendees with the opportu-
nity to view the latest and greatest products
and services on the market.

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

MetGCSA Winter Seminar

Wednesday, January 15, 2014
Westchester Country Club
Rye, NY
Save the date, and watch for details.

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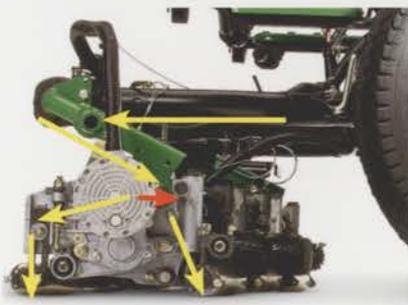
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New Members

Please join us in welcoming the following new MetGCSA members:

- **Joshua Haugh**, Class C, of Willow Ridge Country Club in Harrison, NY
- **James Hunt**, Class C, of Sunningdale Country Club in Scarsdale, NY.

Member on the Move

Aaron Crouse is a new assistant superintendent at Westchester Country Club in Rye, NY. Previous position: Assistant superintendent at The Woodmere Club in Woodmere, NY.

Newly Certified

Congratulations to **Kevin Seibel** for completing the coursework required to become a certified golf course superintendent (CGCS) with GCSAA.

Look Who's in the News

Sterling Farms Superintendent **Tracey Holliday** was profiled in the June-July edition of *The Met Golfer*, themed "Women at the Fore." The article highlights Tracey's courageous path to achieving golf course superintendent status in a male-dominated industry. At the helm of Sterling Farms Golf Course's maintenance operation for the past 25 years, Tracey has presided over one of the most highly rated and well-conditioned public courses in the Met area. Way to go Tracey!

Be sure to check out the article on page 24 of *The Met Golfer*. You can also find it online at: http://www2.cybergolf.com/sites/images/527/24-29_June-2013_Up-Close.pdf.



President's Message continued from page 1

Charlie Robson Honored With MGWA's Distinguished Service Award

I am pleased to announce that at this year's Metropolitan Golf Writers (MGW) Dinner, Charlie Robson, who is the longest-tenured executive director among the PGA of America's 41 sections, received the MGWA's Distinguished Service Award. Charlie is not only the Met PGA Section executive director, but also a dear friend of the MetGCSA and recipient of our John Reid Lifetime Achievement Award in 1998. This coveted award is reserved for individuals who, through continuing commitment, promote the science and art of golf course management and the professional image of the golf course superintendent.

In addition to his work with the Met PGA section, Charlie's true passion is Junior Golf. He established the Met PGA Junior Golf Association and Junior Tour and, in 1988, began the "Golf In Schools" program, which served as a model for many other inner-city programs across the nation. Charlie was also an integral part of the group that founded The First Tee of Metropolitan New York, headquartered at Mosholu Golf Course in the Bronx, and he continues to serve as treasurer on their Board of Directors.

We can't thank Charlie enough for being a great supporter of all his allied partners and for his dedication to the "game of golf" in the Met area and beyond!

Thank You to All Rounds 4 Research Donors

I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who donated rounds for this great cause. For those who might have missed my past messages describing this

worthy endeavor, the Rounds 4 Research program 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 MetGCSA is currently participating in the Rounds 4 Research program, which means that at least 80 percent of the proceeds we raise will be distributed to support the New York Best Management Practices (BMP) initiative and, in the future, other research-based programs, such as education, scholarships, advocacy, and agronomic research. The more rounds we secure, the greater the revenue we can generate in support of our members and chapter.

I would like to thank our allied partners for their help in generating support, with special thanks to the MGA for their additional support in helping us reach the golfing community. The June auction is now complete, and we are currently accepting rounds for the August auction. Please visit <http://www.mgagolf.org/rounds4research> to view all the rounds available in August.

If you would like to participate, please contact Glen Dube, MetGCSA Research Chairman, or visit our website for further information at www.metgcsa.org.

To Our Advertisers: We Appreciate Your Support

As the fiscal advertising year of 2012-2013 closes, I want to thank all of the advertisers who help make our association meetings, education programs, scholarships, newsletter, and more, possible through their support each year. So on behalf of the board and the entire membership, we thank you all and look forward to continuing our relationship for many years to come.

Blake Halderman, CGCS
MetGCSA President

Winning Results of the Dave Mahoney Two-Ball Championship Qualifier

by Ed Brockner, MetGCSA Executive Director

Our tournament season got off to a great start with the Dave Mahoney Two-Ball Championship Qualifier held on April 29 at Rye Golf Club. Our meeting host, Chip Lafferty, and his staff had the course in tremendous shape, and our day was capped off with an outstanding dinner at Rye's Whitby Castle. We're looking forward to heading back to Rye for another meeting sometime soon!

Special thanks to Head Professional Mike Rapisarda, interim GM Jim Lapolito, City Manager Scott Pickup, and especially the Rye membership for hosting our event.

For those who are playing in the Two-Ball, please remember to complete your matches by the following deadlines:

Match 1: Sweet 16 ~ June 7 (See page 9, for the Sweet 16 highlights and Elite 8 match lineup.)

Match 2: Elite 8 ~ July 19

Match 3: Final Four Semi's ~ August 30

Finals ~ October 7

Also note that the winning team from each match is required to report its score to Larry Pakkala at lpakkala@optonline.net. If you have a story to share about your match, please send that along too, and we'll run it with the results in the *Tee to Green!*

In the meantime, here's a look at the lineup of Two-Ball Qualifiers, along with their first-round wins.

Two-Ball Qualifier Results/First-Round Wins

First Flight

- 1) Glen Dube/Blake Halderman
Centennial GC/Brae Burn CC
- 16) BYE
- 8) Steven McGlone/Bob Lippman Jr.
Siwanoy CC/Westchester Turf Supply
defeated
- 9) Sean Cain/Stephen Rabideau
Sunningdale CC/Wheatley Hills GC
on the 20th hole at The Stanwich Club

- 5) Todd Raisch/Jamie Devers
Ridgewood CC/Canoe Brook CC
defeated
- 12) Jeff Wentworth/Tony Hooks
Pelham CC/Richmond County CC
5&4 at Liberty National
- 13) Scott Niven/Larry Pakkala
The Stanwich Club/Silvermine GC
defeated
- 4) Mark Fuller/Jason Meersman
Connecticut GC/The Patterson Club
1 up at Rolling Hills
- 11) Tom Ashfield/Andy Drohen
Quaker Ridge GC/Agrium Advanced Technologies
defeated
- 6) George Corgan/Guy Gurney
Steven Willand/West Hills CC
4&2 at Mt. Kisco
- 3) Matt Ceplo/Jim Swiatlowski
Rockland CC/Montammy GC
defeated
- 14) Grover Alexander/David Dudones
Hudson Hills GC/North Jersey CC
3&2 at Mountain Ridge
- 10) Ryan Oliver/Tom Weinert
Hudson National GC/Plant Food Company
defeated
- 7) Bert Dickinson/Chip Lafferty
Willow Ridge CC/Rye GC
4&3 at Yale
- 15) Dave Lippman/Matt Topazio
Westchester Turf Supply/New York CC
defeated
- 2) Tony Grasso/Scott Tretera
Jacobsen/Textron/Harrell's LLC
2&1 at Round Hill
- 8) Kevin Collins/Nick Lerner
Aquatrols, Inc./Bonnie Briar CC
defeated
- 9) Doug Snyder/Bob Steinman
Millbrook Club/Metro Turf Specialists
4&2 at Fenway
- 5) Tim Garceau/Ernie Steinhofner
Haworth CC/Metro Turf Specialists
defeated
- 12) Eddie Binsse/Dan Cancelleri
Class LA/Class LAF
5&4 at Scarsdale
- 4) Rob Alonzi/Bill Bartels
Fenway GC/Tanto Irrigation
defeated
- 13) Bob Wolverton/Brian Chapin
Edgewood CC/Paramount CC
5&4 at Old Oaks
- 11) Paul Gonzalez/Lou Quick
Whippoorwill Club/Anglebrook GC
defeated
- 6) Doug Johnstone/Glenn Gallion
Silver Lake GC/Wilfred MacDonald
in a coin toss
- 3) Ken Benoit/Greg Gutter
Glen Arbor GC/Mount Kisco CC
defeated
- 14) Chris Alonzi/Mike Cook
Elmwood CC/The Care of Trees
2&1 at Hudson National
- 10) Brian Bontemps/Steven Lochran
Seeton Turf Warehouse/Rock Ridge CC
defeated
- 7) Don Asinski/Eric Yount
Marine Park GC/Dyker Beach GC
4&3 at Upper Montclair
- 15) Dennis Flynn/Peter Rappoccio
Screaming Eagle Supply/Silver Spring CC
defeated
- 2) Bill Perlee/Bob Nielsen
Apawamis Club/Bedford Golf & Tennis
3&2 at Whippoorwill

Second Flight

- 1) Bob Alonzi/Joe Alonzi
Fenway GC/Westchester CC
- 16) BYE



Scott Niven crushes tee shot at Rolling Hills.

Tales From a Rousing First Round in the Dave Mahoney Two-Ball Championship

by Larry Pakkala, CGCS

As we enter into our Elite 8 Two-Ball matches, I'd like to share a few of the more exciting stories from our Sweet 16 first round. Following them is the lineup for the Elite 8 matches. Good luck everyone!

In the First Flight . . .

The team of Matt Ceplo and Jim Swiatowski moved on with a 3 & 2 victory over David Dudones and Grover Alexander at Mountain Ridge in West Caldwell, NJ. From all accounts, playing conditions were awesome. Struggling to beat the rain, the match started early in the day. The first nine were completed in a dead heat. Then the rain hit as Ceplo and Swiatowski went 2 up after 15 holes. Swiatowski put the dagger in with a par on the 16th to go three up to clinch the match. After the round, Mountain Ridge Super Cliff Moore joined the group at a local establishment for lunch. During the festivities, a toast was made to Dave Mahoney.

Scott Niven and Larry Pakkala move on to the Elite 8 with a win over Mark Fuller and Jason Meersman at Rolling Hills in Wilton, CT. Superintendent Glenn Perry had the course in excellent shape for the tight match that went to the 18th hole. Niven and Pakkala fought furiously in a seesaw struggle, where no team was ever more than 2 up. The younger Meersman was launching 300-plus-yard drives over the tight, tree-lined track, but Niven and Pakkala were able to stave off the onslaught by keeping more drives on the fairways than Fuller and Meersman could. Pakkala won it with a net 4 on 18.

Matt Topazio and Dave Lippman defeated Tony Grasso and Scott Tretera 2 & 1 on May 13 at Round Hill Club. Topazio played brilliantly out of the bunkers getting up and down three times at critical points in the match including the final hole to close them out.

Tom Ashfield and Andy Drohen played against George Corgan and Guy Gurney at Mount Kisco Country Club. Ashfield and Drohen took advantage of some "Hail

Mary" chip-ins and long putts along with five birdies to beat their competitors 4 & 2.

On a gorgeous day, the team of Bob Lippman and Steven McGlone defeated Sean Cain and Steve Rabideau at The Stanwich Club in Greenwich, CT, on the second hole of sudden death. After the front nine, Lippman and McGlone found themselves down by 4 and battled back on the backside to take it to sudden death. No easy task on the tough Stanwich track, while competing against two of the best players in the MetGCSA!

In the Second Flight . . .

In a rematch of the 2011 Championship match, Chris Alonzi and Mike Cook faced off against Ken Benoit and Greg Gutter at the venerable Hudson National Golf Club.

Benoit and Gutter got out to a fast start by going 2 up after three holes, but as expected, Alonzi and Cook brought the match back to within one after Cook parred the difficult Par 4 fourth. Alonzi and Cook looked to even the match on the sixth when Cook made a 30-foot birdie putt, but Benoit pulled off a miracle six-iron from 200 yards and two-putted to ensure a halve on the short Par 5. Benoit and Gutter proceeded to win the sixth and ninth to go three up at the turn.

Alonzi and Cook came out swinging on the back nine, immediately cutting into their deficit by winning the 10th. Now, just 2 up with eight to go, a steely-eyed Gutter took dead aim from the tee on the Par 3 eleventh. His low squib came up 40 yards short of the green; however, his up and down was good for par and a win.

The match tightened up on the Par 5 fourteenth after Alonzi and Cook both made par, but they found themselves back to two down after making a mess of the 15th. The 16th was halved, and the match stood dormie with two to go. Nerves clearly played their part on the 17th tee as three out of the four tee shots found the deep rough. Gutter muscled a terrific shot from 140 yards to within 15 feet and two-putted to halve the hole and win the match.

All in all, a great day was had by all. Many thanks to Hudson National's new superintendent, Ryan Oliver. It looks like he's off to a great start.

Next Up in the Elite 8 Matches

First Flight

- 1) Glen Dube/Blake Halderman
Centennial GC/Brae Burn CC
vs.
- 8) Steven McGlone/Bob Lippman Jr.
Siwanoy CC/Westchester Turf Supply
- 5) Todd Raisch/Jaime Devers
Ridgewood CC/Canoe Brook CC
vs.
- 13) Scott Niven/Larry Pakkala
The Stanwich Club/Silvermine GC
- 11) Tom Ashfield/Andy Drohen
Quaker Ridge GC/Agrium Advanced Technologies
vs.
- 3) Matt Ceplo/Jim Swiatowski
Rockland CC/Montammy GC
- 10) Ryan Oliver/Tom Weinert
Hudson National GC/Plant Food Company
vs.
- 15) Dave Lippman/Matt Topazio
Westchester Turf Supply/New York CC

Second Flight

- 2) Bob Alonzi/Joe Alonzi
Fenway GC/Westchester CC
vs.
- 16) Kevin Collins/Nick Lerner
Aquatrols, Inc./Bonnie Briar CC
- 5) Tim Garceau/Ernie Steinhofner
Haworth CC/Metro Turf Specialists
vs.
- 4) Rob Alonzi/Bill Bartels
Fenway GC/Tanto Irrigation
- 11) Paul Gonzalez/Lou Quick
Whippoorwill Club/Anglebrook GC
vs.
- 3) Ken Benoit/Greg Gutter
Glen Arbor GC/Mount Kisco CC
- 10) Brian Bontemps/Steven Lochran
Seeton Turf Warehouse/Rock Ridge CC
vs.
- 15) Dennis Flynn/Peter Rappoccio
Screaming Eagle Supply/Silver Spring CC

Larry Pakkala, a member of the Tee to Green Editorial Committee, is superintendent of golf courses at Silvermine Golf Club.

Steven McGlone Welcomes Summer Social-Goers to Siwanoy

by Jim Pavonetti, CGCS

Steven McGlone and Siwanoy Country Club couldn't be more pleased to host the MetGCSA's ever-popular Summer Social. Set for July 9, this annual event offers members the opportunity to socialize the stress of the season away with an evening of dinner and dancing under the stars.

This will be the second Met event that Steven has hosted in his five-year tenure at Siwanoy. The first was the Dave Mahoney Two-Ball Championship Qualifier, named after Steven's predecessor.

Steven landed the superintendent's position in 2008, after leaving his job as assistant superintendent at Quaker Ridge Golf Club to help out Siwanoy after the tragic passing of Dave Mahoney. His excellent work as interim superintendent led the club to offer him the permanent position as Siwanoy's property manager. Since coming on board, Steven has been nothing short of busy, concentrating his efforts most recently on crew organization and the club's long-range planning efforts.

Siwanoy's Rich History

The club was founded in 1901, taking its name from a Mohican tribe that lived in the area. Originally a nine-hole course along White Plains Road, Siwanoy built an 18-hole course in 1913 at its current site under the guidance of Architect Donald Ross. In 1916, only three years after construction, Siwanoy hosted the very first PGA Championship, which was won by Jim Barnes.

Typical of most Donald Ross layouts in the Northeast, this Bronxville, NY, course features a well-routed layout on a minimum of land—110 acres, in this case. The greens, though on the small side, are full of character and well protected.

Over the years, numerous architects have added their personal touch to the greens, tees, and bunkers. Among them were Robert Trent Jones Sr. and Arthur Hills. Currently, the club is working with Golf Course Architect Mike DeVries of DeVries Designs to fully restore this Ross gem to its original design intent.

A coursewide phased project is underway and will continue through 2015. Few features will remain untouched, since the plan includes restoring bunkers, green surfaces, and aprons; adding tee length; rerouting cart paths; and installing a new irrigation system. Siwanoy hopes to roll out the finished project by the summer of 2016 to showcase the course in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the PGA Championship it hosted in 1916.

Steven's Path to Siwanoy

Steven, like many superintendents, didn't begin his college career with a degree in turfgrass management in mind. In fact, he completed a B.S. in Geography from Ohio University with his sights set on becoming an Urban Planner. His career path took a turn, however, with the encouragement of Jim Noel, superintendent of Lakewood Country Club in Steven's hometown of Westlake, OH. Steven had worked summers at Lakewood through high school and then college, and seeing his potential, Jim encouraged him to pursue a degree in turfgrass management.

Lo and behold, that's just what Steven did, earning a degree in turf management from Pennsylvania State University in 2004. While completing his degree, Steven interned at The Country Club in Pepper Pike, OH, and then moved to the West Coast to become an assistant at Cypress Point Club in Pebble Beach, CA, where he stayed for three years.



Steven McGlone

In March of 2007, he returned East, accepting an assistant's position with Quaker Ridge Golf Club Superintendent Tom Ashfield, who Steven credits for the guidance and impeccable training he provided. By September of 2008, Steven was well equipped to assume his current position as Siwanoy's golf course superintendent.

In the midst of Steven's transition from urban planning major to Siwanoy superintendent, he met and then married his wife of five years, Margie. The two started dating while attending Ohio University and eventually got engaged while living in California. When Margie got her current position working with the Disney Company on Broadway, they both moved back to the East Coast. "She came west for me," says Steven, "and I went east for her."

Margie and Steven live in a recently renovated 1800s farmhouse on the western side of Siwanoy, with their 3-year-old son, Finley, and another on the way, due in September!

Cheers

Be sure to join Steven and Margie July 9 for a little R & R and a lot of camaraderie at Siwanoy Country Club. You can be certain the clubhouse staff will roll out the red carpet for our special summer evening event.

To add to the experience, you might want to scan Netflix for the classic 1998 movie *Rounders* about the underground world of high-stakes poker and watch it before you come. Parts were filmed inside and around the clubhouse. You can see if any of it looks familiar!

So come on out for a truly great evening. I guarantee you won't be disappointed.

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

Jeff Wentworth Welcomes Met Members to Nine and Dine at Pelham

by Kevin Collins

July 16 will mark the second time Pelham Country Club Superintendent Jeff Wentworth will host the MetGCSA's Superintendent/Guest Tournament. This time, however, it will be run as a Nine and Dine event, a format well received when introduced for the first time last year.

Celebrating its 105th anniversary at its present site in Pelham Manor, NY, Pelham Country Club had its origins as a small tennis club and five-hole golf course in 1908. In 1921, an influential member, Mont Rogers, reinvented the club. He formed a company to buy the land and hired noted golf course architect Devereux Emmet to create a championship golf course. Two years later, in 1923, Pelham made history, hosting one of the most memorable PGA Championships on record. Gene Sarazen defeated Walter Hagen in a playoff, notching a birdie to clinch the championship in sudden death on the second hole.

In the late 1950s, the course underwent yet another transformation: It was redesigned to accommodate construction of the New England Thruway, which was routed directly through the course. Architect Alfred Tull was hired to build five new holes (Holes 4 through 8) across Mount Tom Road.

The Pelham Country Club we know today plays close to 6,400 yards from the back tees and is characterized by tight, tree-lined fairways. "Precise tee shots and accurate approach shots are a must," warns Jeff, "if you hope to shoot a decent score."

About Jeff

Jeff's early career began in 1988 as a student intern at Myopia Hunt Club. He expanded his turf management experience at Ridge-wood Country Club in New Jersey and then Maryland's Columbia Country Club, completing the two-year turf program at Stockbridge in 1989 and a B.S. in Urban Forestry from UMass in 1991. That same year, with a degree in hand, Jeff embarked on a four-year term as an assistant at Westchester Country Club. "When I came to Westchester, Patty Knaggs hired me," remembers Jeff, "There had to have been over 50 applicants, and I was happy that Patty saw something in me. She was tough but fair."

Jeff also spent time under the tutelage of Joe Alonzi, who was next in line as Westchester's golf course superintendent. "I learned a lot from Joe," Jeff recalls, pointing in particular to the fine example he set when speaking to club members. "One day," says Jeff, "when we were spraying the South Course, a woman came up to Joe, clearly agitated about the fact that we were spraying. Joe handled it by telling her, very calmly, that he really didn't like to spray but that it was necessary to do at times. The woman's whole demeanor changed, and she calmed down without Joe going through a whole discourse about what he was doing and why he was doing it. That stays with me to this day," adds Jeff. "Less is more."

Aside from the fine art of communicating with members, Joe also shared with Jeff the nuances of making sound judgment calls on the course. "He taught me to think things through and avoid snap judgments," says Jeff. "Beyond being a great teacher, Joe's a great listener and a truly empathetic person."

Pulling Out All the Stops at Pelham

From Westchester, Jeff launched into his first and current superintendent's position at Pelham in 1994. But it was much more than just a launch; Jeff hit the ground running and clearly hasn't stopped. The number of projects and improvements made to the course over the past 19 years are impressive. He's reconstructed 14 tees, restored almost all 18 greens back to their original dimensions, installed a new, full-coverage irrigation system, and built a new, 11,000-square-foot maintenance facility. In 2011, the club added a new short game practice area with three USGA-spec chipping greens, bunkers, and a large fairway area. Whew! But wait, there's more: In addition, Jeff ushered through a three-year-long land management program that included selective tree removal and substantial drainage work.

Next up: In 2014, Pelham will embark on a new master plan for the golf course under the supervision of architect Mike DeVries.

Beyond Pelham

A proponent of giving back to the profession, Jeff served on the MetGCSA board for four



Jeff Wentworth, CGCS

years and has chaired or co-chaired numerous committees. He's also hosted at least five other MetGCSA events in the past. But Jeff is also proud of his involvement in the UMass Alumni Turf Group. As a founding member, Jeff served for 10 years on the board. He was instrumental in bringing together other graduates of the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at UMass, who are committed to raising funds to further research and education, promote UMass alumni in the turf management profession, and instill pride and commitment in the turf programs at the University of Massachusetts. One of the Alumni Turf Group's major fundraising events has been the Joe Troll Turf Education Fundraiser, which was held for the 10th year, this time in May at TPC Boston.

When the work day's done, Jeff loves to spend his time with his first love and wife of 16 years, Mimi. Their shared passion for travel took Jeff and Mimi last fall to South Africa for 19 days where they enjoyed Capetown and the southern tip of the country and a five-day safari. Jeff described their South African adventure as nothing short of "spectacular."

Jeff and Mimi also like to escape to Vermont when the opportunity presents itself. "We bought a house in Peru, VT, about 15 years ago, where the movie *Baby Boom*, starring Dianne Keaton, was filmed," says Jeff. "Peru has become our home away from home." Jeff still enjoys skiing, but is less of a diehard: "I hold out for the best days, when the snow is new and it's not too cold," he says. A dedicated golfer, Jeff maintains a 7 handicap, playing golf whenever time permits.

July 16 will be here before you know it, and Pelham Country Club and Jeff look forward to making the Met's Nine and Dine an event to remember. Be sure not miss it!

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

Come One, Come All to the Summer Picnic at Paramount!

by Matt Ceplo, CGCS

I was listening to the evening news a couple of weeks ago, and they were preparing to talk about our nations' bridges. After what seemed like an eternity of commercials, the newscaster finally announced the worst bridge in the country. And guess what? It was our very own Tappan Zee! With that news, I got on the phone to governor Cuomo and told him about the MetGCSA's Summer Picnic: "We can't have any problems on July 23 when Paramount Country Club and Brian Chapin will be hosting this year's Summer Picnic." The Governor quickly assured me that the bridge would be open for anyone coming to enjoy the festivities. My next call was to Mother Nature, and she assured me good weather. It's nice to have connections.

All kidding aside, please join fellow Met members for the family event of the year. Our annual Summer Picnic promises a day of fun for everyone! This year, there will be swimming, tennis, putt-putt, a bounce house, playground, and perhaps a little golf for the adults. Paramount is truly the perfect venue.

Nestled in the heart of the Hudson Valley in the town of New City, Paramount was once a playground for the rich and famous. In 1918, Paramount Pictures founder Adolph Zukor purchased 1,200 acres known as Mountain View Farm. It became a romantic Hollywood weekend getaway spot for stars and directors. Also rumored were Zukor's movie release parties where family and friends were treated to previews of the latest releases and in-person introductions to the new flicks' directors and stars.

In 1920, Zukor hired famed golf course architect A.W. Tillinghast to build an 18-hole championship golf course, complete with a clubhouse, guesthouse, and, of course, a movie theater. During the Great Depression, however, the movie industry suffered, and Zukor was unable to maintain his Mountain View Farm estate. He opened it for membership as a golf club. Then in 1948, the property was sold, and part of this impressive estate—along with many of its original stone structures—became Dellwood Country Club. In 2009, the Mandelbaum family assumed the operation, and after a multi-million-dollar renovation, renamed it Paramount Country Club in honor of its original owner.

Brian's Path to Paramount

This change in ownership just happened to coincide with Brian's first season as golf course superintendent. Brian had been working at the club since 2005 as the assistant to fellow Met member Joe Gardner. Joe left the maintenance operation in Brian's capable hands when he moved on in the fall of 2008 to Fresh Meadow Country Club in Great Neck, NY.

Brian's fascination with the industry began when he was just 8 years old, playing golf with his father in his hometown of Cumberland, ME. In 1997, and every summer through high school, Brian had the opportunity to experience golf through a different lens: as a crew member, rather than golfer, at The Woodlands Club in Falmouth, ME. "I was fortunate to work for



Brian Chapin

a talented superintendent who had just moved to Maine from the Philadelphia area. He showed me that there was much more to the business than just cutting grass."

Hooked on golf course management, Brian landed a summer internship in 2001 at Ridgewood Country Club in Paramus, NJ, and then another in 2002 at Arcola Country Club, also in Paramus. After a few months on the job, he accepted his first assistant's position at Arcola under then Superintendent Barney Misiura. During his tenure there, he completed his two-year turf certificate from Rutgers University, commuting nearly two hours each day.

As busy as he was, Brian clearly wasn't all work and no play. It was at Arcola that he met—and began dating—his future wife, Zoya. After a nearly nine-year courtship, they tied the knot in August of 2012 and are living happily-ever-after on the Upper West Side of Manhattan. Aside from enjoying everything the City has to offer, Brian enjoys, of course, golfing (he sports a 4.5 index) and, when the snow flies, heading to the mountains to go skiing.

July 23... Be There!

Brian is counting on a large turnout—and the opportunity to showcase the fine job the Mandelbaums have done with the facility over the past four years. "There's a large swimming pool and kiddy pool that have been renovated. There are playgrounds with swings, and a bounce house that everyone's kids are guaranteed to enjoy," says Brian, also pointing out the club's brand-new bistro and large sprawling lawns, perfect for Summer Picnic activities.

So plan on attending this year's Summer Picnic. It promises to be a great day with friends and family. Is there anything better?

Matt Ceplo, a member of the Tee to Green Editorial Committee, is superintendent at Rockland Country Club in Sparkill, NY.



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