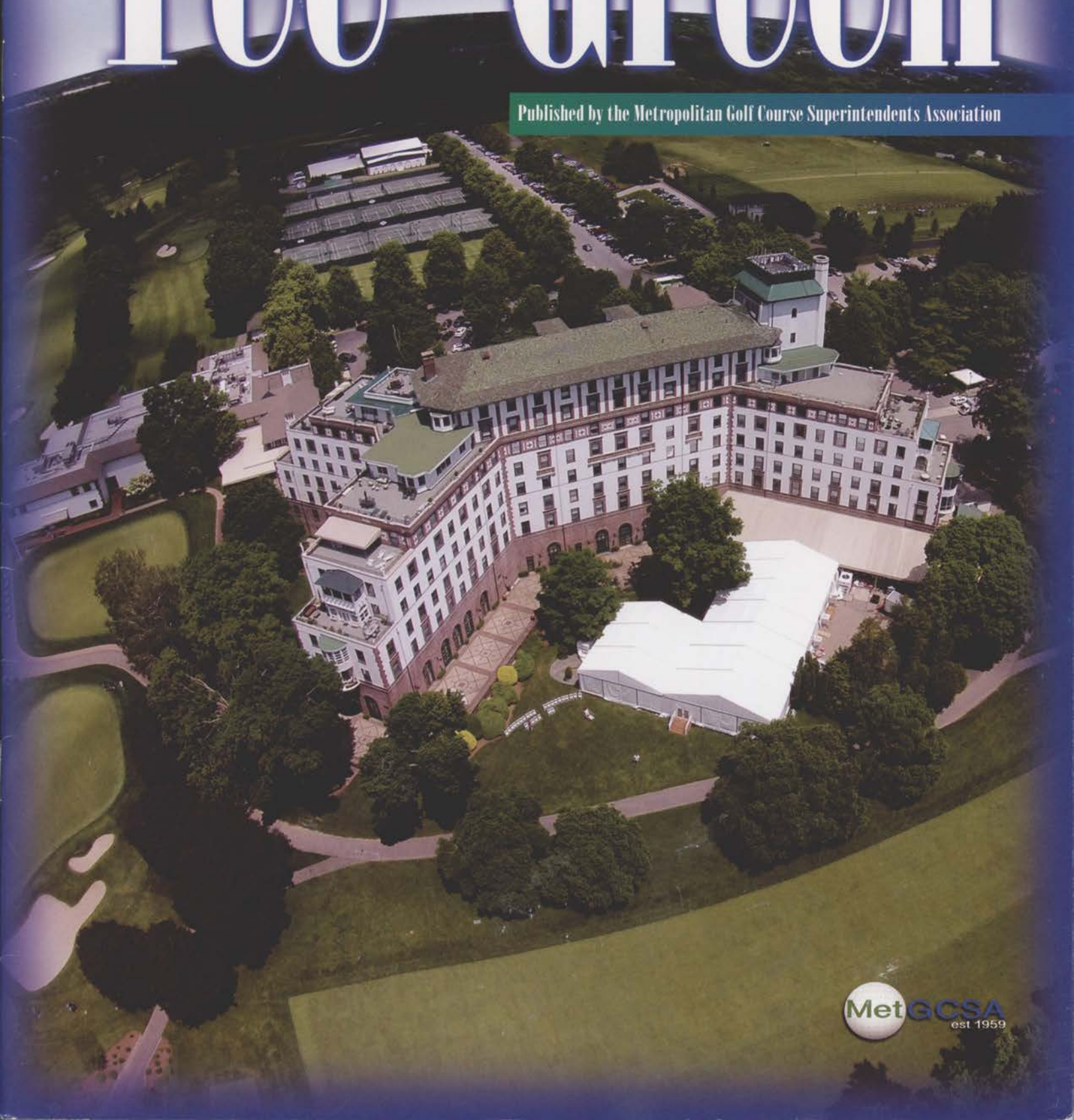


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Tee To Green

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Tee To Green



Westchester
Country Club

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President's Message

Setting Our Sights on Greater Involvement



I would like to begin my first president's message by wishing you and your families a happy, healthy, and prosperous 2015. Even though the holidays seemed to come and go quickly, I hope everyone had the opportunity to relax and spend quality time with friends and family. Weather-wise, the 2014 season was very good to us. But that certainly doesn't mean that the rigors and stresses of the job went away. As we start the new year, please find time to disengage, decompress, and get ready for the upcoming season.

This year marks an exciting time for me. It is a huge honor to serve as your president, and I would like to thank you all for your vote of confidence. I certainly have some big shoes to fill. Many great leaders have come before me and helped pave the way for me to take the lead. A big thank you goes out to our past president, Blake Halderman, for leaving me with nothing short of a strong and healthy association.

But I'm no different than any new president before me. I have my own hopes and dreams for our association.

A Nudge to Participate

Like a number of my predecessors, I am hoping to find that magic formula for improving membership participation. The association strives to book golf, education, and social events that provide opportunities for the membership to network with peers, gain insight into new turf industry trends, and develop a sense of camaraderie and fun among fellow members. I know everyone is busy, juggling work, kids, and family obligations. Our time to attend events is frequently stretched thin, but I've always found a way to carve out time for our association's gatherings. I look forward to them as a way to catch up with colleagues, many of whom have become very good friends.

Participating in our events also offers the perfect opportunity to meet new people. I know there are many of you out there who I haven't met. I ask that you make time to get away from your course a few times this season and come to a meeting. Introduce your-



Glen Dube, CGCSA
MetGCSA President

self to me, and I'll be sure to get the introductions among fellow members going. That's how lasting industry relationships began for me—and will most certainly begin for you.

I remember years ago, when I first thought about coming to meetings, I was hesitant. But after attending one or two MetGCSA events, I got hooked. The networking possibilities and camaraderie that happen at Met outings and social events are invaluable, both personally and professionally. Take a look at our Upcoming Events on page 5, and plan now to join us in the coming months!

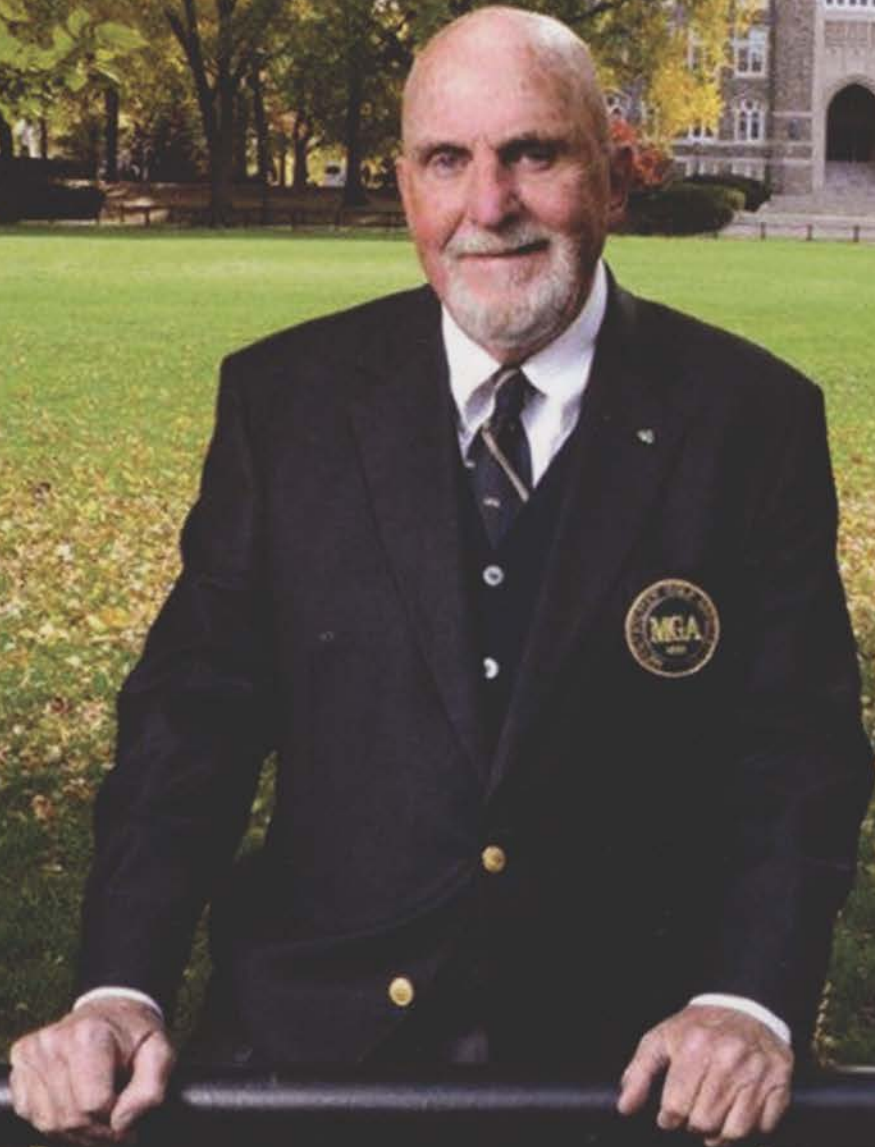
Assistant Involvement

Another aspect of our association that I would like to strengthen is our assistant superintendent involvement. Our Class C representative, Dave Parson from The Apawamis Club, is already moving things in a positive direction. He has formed a committee that includes assistants from area clubs. In addition to organizing the Class C Championship, Dave and his committee will come to the board with suggestions for encouraging assistant participation and for making them aware of all the MetGCSA has to offer.

Dave Parson's committee has already made the board aware of the fact that many assistants don't know anything about MetGCSA history or traditions. For instance, many have no idea who Sherwood Moore is and why our most highly coveted and prestigious award is named after him. They don't know about Bill Caputi and why his name is associated with the scholarship raffle. Nor do they know who the late Dave Mahoney is and why the Two-Ball is named

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Feature



**A Portrait of
Paul Dillon:
Our 25th
John Reid
Lifetime
Achievement
Award
Recipient**

by Scott Niven, CGCS



he MetGCSA is pleased to present its 2015 John Reid Lifetime Achievement Award to Paul Dillon, a prominent figure—and significant contributor—in the world of golf. A past *USA Today* article aptly described the now 80-year-old Dillon as “a master of many strokes,” referring to his talents as a golf coach, formidable foe on the course, and an accomplished artist, who for the past 30 years has painted oil portraits of countless Met-area tournament champions and numerous golf greats.

In addition to adorning the walls of such clubs as Winged Foot, Ridgewood, and Baltusrol, examples of Dillon’s work hang in the Metropolitan Golf Association (MGA) building, an organization he has served for nearly 25 years.

“The Reid Award is the MetGCSA’s most distinguished service award, reserved for someone who has made an indelible mark on the game of golf,” says Awards Committee Chair Bob Nielsen. “Paul’s obvious passion for the game, service to the industry as a leader of prominent area golf organizations, and his continual efforts to spread the traditions and values associated with the game of golf make him a natural for this year’s award,” adds Bob.

For the Love of Golf

Dillon was born in Manhattan and graduated from Iona College in New Rochelle, NY, working as a sales manager at a forest products company in Wayne, NJ, for 30 years.

A New Yorker, through and through, he and his wife of 55 years, Mary Ellen, made their home in Mamaroneck, NY, where they raised six children, including five boys—actors Matt (50 films) and Kevin (30 films and TV) among them.

Four of their five boys became avid golfers, beginning as juniors at Wykagyl and Winged Foot, where Dillon remains a member.

Though he caddied as a kid, golf, for him, was an acquired taste. “I liked competitive sports,” says Dillon, “but when I was young, I thought golf was boring, a game for sissies.” It wasn’t until he actually played his first

round at 23 that he was bitten by the golf bug. He has played at countless courses since, many in the Met area. When pressed to name his favorite tracks, he is quick to mention Pine Valley and Augusta National.

Having always been a low single-digit handicapper with a great love for the game, Dillon was asked in 1995 to share his skill and enthusiasm as coach of the Fordham University golf team. Over the past 21 years, the team has done very well, often finishing high among the standings in the Atlantic 10 Conference golf matches. Dillon’s efforts and dedication have not gone unnoticed: In 2009, he was honored with both the Atlantic 10 Golf Coach of the Year award and Fordham Coach of the Year.

And no surprise: Team members have lauded his skill as a coach, describing him as laidback and fun, while at the same time a superb instructor and motivator.

“Paul is so positive and enthusiastic—especially about his team,” says Yale Golf Coach Colin Sheehan, who has seen Dillon in action at intercollegiate golf games. “He is a true gentleman and someone who respects and adores the game so much. I consider it a privilege to spend time with him,” adds Sheehan. “Everyone enjoys his company.”

Though guiding the team in perfecting their swing is always top of his mind, Dillon’s ultimate goal as Fordham’s golf team coach is to see that they develop into responsible, respectable adults. And at the end, there’s a reward for staying the course: Dillon paints and presents a portrait to every graduating senior.

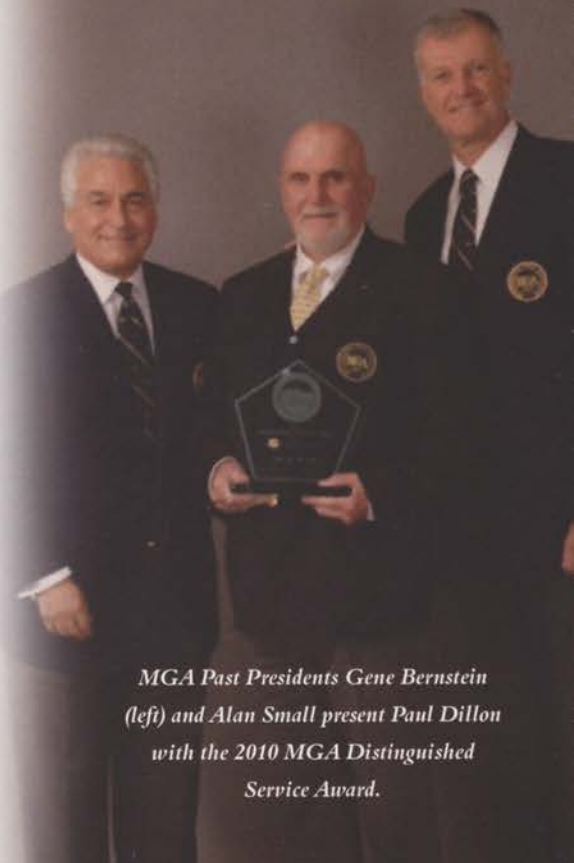
Making His Mark in the New York Golf Community

In addition to coaching, Dillon has held a longtime passion for public service, which he’s channeled largely into the New York golf community. He has chaired most of the governing bodies that promote and preserve the valued traditions of the game, serving as president of multiple organizations. Among them are the Westchester Golf Association (WGA) and the WGA Caddie Scholarship Fund; the MGA, where he served two terms, and the MGA Foundation.

Dillon continues to serve on the executive boards of these groups, as well as the Met PGA. He was also instrumental in founding the MGA’s fundraising campaign called “Golf Grows Here.” This effort helped to expand the programs of The First Tee of Metropolitan New York and GOLFWORKS, which together, use the game of golf to promote such core values as integrity, perseverance, and respect, as well as job opportunities among underprivileged juniors. His leadership of the MGA Foun-

“He is a true gentleman and someone who respects and adores the game so much. I consider it a privilege to spend time with him. Everyone enjoys his company.”

— Colin Sheehan



MGA Past Presidents Gene Bernstein (left) and Alan Small present Paul Dillon with the 2010 MGA Distinguished Service Award.

Paul Dillon (left) presents one of his special portraits to CBS Sportscaster and former MetGCSA Reid Award Winner Jim Nantz.



dation also made possible the expansion of Golf Central in Elmsford, NY, the home of Met-area golf associations, the MetGCSA included.

Although not one to boast of his accomplishments, Dillon has been recognized for his exceptional contributions to golf by the MGA with its 2010 Distinguished Service Award and the Met PGA with its 2010 Sam Snead Award in honor of his countless contributions to the game of golf, the MGA, Westchester Golf Association, and the Met PGA. In 2003, the Golf Writers Association also recognized Dillon with its Distinguished Service Award.

Golf Portraits Are His Calling Card

Clearly a giving spirit, it's no surprise that one of his greatest passions is painting portraits. He is the Met area's, and perhaps the world's, most prolific golf artist. And his beautiful masterpieces become cherished treasures to all those who have provided a worthy and significant contribution to the game.

Dillon knew from an early age that he could draw. But he didn't begin painting until he was 51 and retired. His talent could almost be expected. He comes from a long line of artists, starting with his mother, Beatrice. His uncle, Jim Raymond, was the lead artist on the Blondie comic strip for 44

years. Another uncle, Alex Raymond, created the comic strips Flash Gordon, Jungle Jim, and several others.

Highly regarded for his talent in capturing the true likeness and inner spirit of a person, Dillon's portraits hang in clubhouses across the country and abroad. In fact, seven of his works are displayed at Winged Foot, seven at Baltusrol, and ten at Ridgewood Country Club, to name just a few. When we got talking about the John Reid Award and who had received it in years past, we realized that he had painted the portraits of one-third of the total 24 recipients!

Though Dillon does not restrict his painting to golf subjects, some of his best work includes portraits of the biggest names in golf during the past century. Among them are A. W. Tillinghast and golf greats Bobby Jones, Ben Hogan, Jack Nicklaus, Arnold Palmer, and Gary Player. There are, of course, many more—too many to list here. Every year for the past 20, Dillon has also painted the Metropolitan Golf Writers Association's national award winners who have most recently included Nancy Lopez and Fred Couples, as well as other award recipients.

In addition to painting golf greats, Dillon has done portraits of cardinals, author Mary Higgins Clark, and Yogi Berra—a mix of well-known and interesting subjects. Yet when asked to name his favorite portraits of

all time, he's quick to say he's most fond of the many paintings he has done of his children at various stages in their lives.

Painting from his one-room studio near the train station in Larchmont, NY, Dillon spends about a week on a portrait, and he will often work on two or three at a time. He finds painting fun and relaxing and is happy to paint at any time of day. Though a talented and well-rounded artist, he's rarely called on to paint anything but people. "For some reason," he says, "people don't ask me to paint pictures of golf holes, which I could. It's always just portraits of golf people."

One for the Superintendent

The MetGCSA has asked Dillon to paint a portrait, and he has graciously agreed to paint one of Sherwood A. Moore, the celebrated superintendent and namesake of our coveted Sherwood A. Moore Award. The MGA will hang it prominently on a wall at Golf Central for perpetuity.

Upon learning of Sherwood's many accomplishments, Dillon aptly noted, "Sherwood Moore took the superintendent out of the barn, much the same way that Walter Hagen raised the reputation of golf professionals."

Going on to share his view of golf course superintendents, Dillon noted, "It's amazing what superintendents have done to improve golf courses over the years. They show a tremendous passion, a real love for what they do, and we, golfers, are the beneficiaries of it."

Having spent time with Dillon at many an intercollegiate golf event held at Yale Golf Club, Superintendent Scott Ramsay has witnessed Dillon's high praise for superintendents on more than one occasion. "We may chat about his painting, his family, his team at Fordham, classic golf course architecture, or agronomy, but he always manages to come around to mentioning the fine work of golf course superintendents," says Scott. "Whether it's Yale, Winged Foot, or another course his team has visited, Paul always has something to say about the superintendent's efforts and successes. I look forward to his positive, appreciative, and worldly perspective each visit."

The world of golf is at the fiber of Paul Dillon's being. "I feel spiritual about golf and its courses," he says. "They are wonderful places."

Paul Dillon was presented with the John Reid Lifetime Achievement Award at the Winter Seminar on January 14 when he also unveiled his special tribute to our profession, his portrait of Sherwood A. Moore.

Scott Niven, a member of the Tee to Green Editorial Committee, is property manager at The Stamwich Club in Greenwich, CT.

Upcoming Events

MetGCSA 2015 Golf Calendar Nearing Completion

The Tournament Committee has been hard at work securing meeting sites and dates for 2015. Here's a peak at the preliminary schedule:

Dave Mahoney Two-Ball Championship Qualifier

Tuesday, April 28
GlenArbor Golf Club
Bedford Hills, NY
Host: Ken Benoit, CGCS

Superintendent/Guest Tournament

May date TBA
Country Club of New Canaan
New Canaan, CT
Host: Mike Roe

MetGCSA Invitational Tournament

June date TBA
Century Country Club
Purchase, NY
Host: Kevin Seibel, CGCS

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

September date TBA
Meadow Brook Club
Jericho, NY
Host: John Carlone, CGCS

Nine and Dine Event

October date TBA
Silvermine Golf Club
Norwalk, CT
Host: Larry Pakkala, CGCS

Educational Events

18th Annual New England Regional Turfgrass Conference and Show

Monday – Thursday, January 26 – 29
Rhode Island Convention Center
Providence, RI

For the 18th consecutive year, the conference and show provides turfgrass professionals from all areas of the industry with the opportunity to see the newest products, supplies, services, and equipment available while joining turfgrass professionals for informative educational sessions, pesticide recertification credits, and endless networking opportunities. For further details, log on to www.NERTF.org or TurfShow.com or call 401-841-5490.

NYSTA Southeast Regional Conference

Tuesday – Wednesday, February 10 – 11
Ramada Inn
Fishkill, NY

Suited for a range of green industry professionals—from golf turf to sports turf—this conference offers a variety of educational sessions, as well as a trade show. For further information, contact Jill Cyr at 518-783-1229 or jill@nysta.org.

2015 GCSAA Education Conference & Golf Industry Show and National Golf Championship

Saturday – Thursday, February 21 – 26
Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center
Austin, TX

Don't miss this opportunity to network with fellow professionals and discuss the latest trends, products, and services in the turfgrass industry.

2015 Nor'easter Ski Day

Thursday, March 5
Killington Ski Resort
Killington, VT

Register now for this multi-association event that includes a day of fun—and a ski race competition—on the Killington slopes! Information and registration links can be found on the front page of the VTGCSA's website at www.vtgcsa.com.

Note: There are rooms available at several locations at Killington. Space is on a first-come, first-served basis, and certain room blocks will be released after February 6. Be sure to lock in a room before they're all taken. Last year, there were more than 100 participants. The event can only grow from there!

Turfgrass Advocacy – NYSTA's Lobby Day

Wednesday, March 11
Empire State Plaza
Albany, NY

NYSTA welcomes all green industry professionals to attend this event. The Turfgrass Advocacy Day offers the opportunity to attend a priority issue briefing session on cur-

rent legislation that could affect the turfgrass and green industry, as well as a chance to meet with your local elected officials, and later discuss issues over lunch with a government official.

Contact Jill Cyr for further details at jill@nysta.org or 518-783-1229. You can register online at www.nysta.org.

2015 MGA Green Chairman Education Seminar & Arthur P. Weber MGA Club Environmental Leaders in Golf Award Luncheon

Tuesday, March 24
Alpine Country Club
Demarest, NJ

The Metropolitan Golf Association Foundation has put together another informative program in its ongoing Green Chairman Education Seminar. An impressive roster of presenters from the USGA's Green Section and the golf industry will address a variety of turfgrass-related issues. Each of the presentations will be followed by a question-and-answer session.

The day will conclude with the eighth annual Arthur P. Weber MGA Club Environmental Leaders in Golf Award Luncheon.

Please contact Kevin Kline at 914-347-4653 or kkline@mgagolf.org for further information.

GCSAA Chapter Delegates Discuss New Model for Member Standards

by Brett Chapin

In October, I traveled to GCSAA Headquarters in Lawrence, KS, for the 2014 Chapter Delegates Meeting. For the past 12 years, Bob Nielsen has served as our chapter delegate, which means I have big shoes to fill in assuming this responsibility!

I was one of 87 delegates from chapters across the country who attended the meeting on October 14 and 15. We spent a considerable amount of time discussing GCSAA's proposed model to update both member classifications and standards.

With a continued focus on education, the proposal:

- Maintains CGCS as the pinnacle of continual education attainment
- Provides tools for members to market themselves and their individual educational achievements
- Allows for the association to promote the profession

Establishing Member Classifications

We discussed the importance and value of promoting the golf course superintendent profession as a whole and provided input on ways to best accomplish this goal.

With this in mind, the proposal specifies five membership classifications:

- *Class A and Class B.* These two classifications include superintendents who are distinguished by a combination of the formal education they've received and their number of years of experience as a superintendent. Distinctions will no longer be made based on continuing education credits achieved.
- *Assistant superintendents.*
- *Equipment managers.* This new classification was well received by delegates at the meeting. It will be placed before the membership for a vote during the 2015 Annual Meeting in San Antonio, TX.
- *Member.* This is a general membership category that includes everyone from vendors and employers to outside agencies.

GCSAA President Keith Ihms explained to all the delegates that education will continue to be at the center of what GCSAA provides to its members. But while the pro-

posal will focus on the value of a well-educated superintendent, it will not place a specific membership classification on a pedestal. Instead, it will promote the value of the profession as a whole.

The board of directors will work with staff and appropriate task groups to collect additional feedback over the next year before a formal proposal will be put to a membership vote at the 2016 Golf Industry Show.

Other Topics of Discussion

During the remainder of the meeting, we discussed:

- Strategies for boosting participation in both Rounds 4 Research and the Golf Industry Show
- Raising member dues
- Advocacy efforts for both the golf industry and the superintendent

Member Dues Increase

A \$10 Class A/SM and \$5 Class C dues increase was proposed based on the Consumer Price Index. Like the establishment of an equipment manager classification, the proposed dues increase will be placed before the membership for a vote during the 2015 Annual Meeting in San Antonio, TX.

Advocating for the Golf Industry

GCSAA Chief Executive Officer Rhett Evans shared updates on the We Are Golf allied coalition, which focuses on general advocacy for the golf industry. More specifically, We Are Golf is a coalition of golf's leading organizations, all working together to communicate to Congressional leaders the economic, charitable, environmental, and fitness benefits of golf.

In addition to GCSAA, the group includes the USGA, the PGA Tour, PGA of America, National Golf Course Owners Association, World Golf Foundation, Club Manufacturers Association of America, and the U.S. Golf Manufacturers Council.

It is clear the golf industry can play a vital role as policymakers continue efforts to boost employment and get the nation's economy back on track.

Advocating for Superintendents

The collective voice of superintendents was heard in Washington, D.C., as GCSAA's stepped-up advocacy efforts yielded two important decisions on behalf of the profession in the past three months.

First, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) granted a three-year extension on the use of Namacur stocks through October 6, 2017. (Note: Namacur is no longer registered for use in the State of New York.)

Second, the House of Representatives voted nearly 2-1 to halt the proposed regulation of Waters of the U.S (WOTUS). The EPA proposal, however, is still alive. Although the comment period ended November 14, 2014, time will tell whether the Senate moves on the WOTUS bill in the lame duck session.

If adopted, WOTUS could come to include all drainage ditches, storm water ditches, and water storage or treatment ponds on golf courses. The effect would add regulatory burdens and costs that would keep golf course managers from tending to routine erosion control and utilizing best management practices for environmental stewardship—the exact opposite of what is intended. Generally, it could also lead to an increase in the cost of goods and services in the economy.

According to Chava McKeel, associate director of GCSAA government relations, we are making a difference, and our voices are being heard in Washington, D.C. GCSAA hopes to involve more members for advocacy through its new grassroots ambassador program. If you would like to be a grassroots ambassador, visit www.gcsaa.org to learn more.



Meet the Candidates

Last but not least, we all had the opportunity to hear from those members running for national office and to participate in small breakout sessions to learn more about candidate platforms and philosophies. The slate of candidates includes:

For President

John J. O'Keefe, CGCS, Preakness Hills Country Club, Wayne, NJ

For Vice President

• Peter J. Grass, CGCS, Hilands Golf Club, Billings, MT

For Secretary/Treasurer

- Rafael Barajas, CGCS, Hacienda Golf Club, LaHabra Heights, CA
- Bill H. Maynard, CGCS, Country Club of St. Albans, MO

For Director

- Darren J. Davis, CGCS, Olde Florida Golf Club, Naples, FL
- John R. Fulling Jr., CGCS, Kalamazoo (MI) Country Club
- Mark F. Jordan, CGCS, Westfield Group Country Club, Westfield Center, OH
- Jeffrey F. Millies, CGCS, Edgewood Golf Course, Big Bend, WI
- Rory Van Poucke, Apache Sun Golf Course, San Tan Valley, AZ
- John Walker, Bentwater Yacht and Country Club, Montgomery, TX

Dedication and Determination

It was quite evident at the Delegates Meeting that the GCSAA is taking the necessary steps to improve the operation of our national organization, and the staff is clearly dedicated to assisting us in making the best decisions to ensure the association's ongoing success.

Leaving the Delegates Meeting, I felt strongly that, with the current leadership and organization, GCSAA has a bright future. John O'Keefe, past president of the MetGCSA, clearly has the best interest of the association and its membership at heart, and I am confident we will see positive change under John's charge. I look forward to representing our association at the 2015 Golf Industry Show.

In addition to being the MetGCSA's chapter delegate, Brett Chapin is superintendent at Redding Country Club in Redding, CT.

President's Message continued from page 1 after him.

In the coming months, I will call on the many MetGCSA historians (the long-timers!) and ask them to compile some back history on these individuals. We will prominently display the information on our website for everybody to gain insight into our association's history and the people who have played a prominent role in making the association what it is today.

What's in Store

The winter conference, trade show, and seminar season is upon us. This is a great time to brush up on cutting-edge turfgrass research and new products, earn pesticide and education points, and of course, network with friends and colleagues.

We started off with our Winter Seminar, graciously hosted by Dave Dudones on January 14 at Westchester Country Club. Education Committee Chairman Rob Alonzi and the entire committee put together another great program that everyone clearly enjoyed.

Another upcoming educational opportunity and trade show in our area is the New England Regional Turfgrass Conference and Show in Providence, RI, on January 26-29. Following close behind is the Southeast Regional Conference, sponsored by NYSTA and being held February 10-11 in Fishkill, NY.

Then we are off to San Antonio for the 2015 National Golf Championship and Educational Conference and GIS. The event will be held February 21-26. After the golf championship, attendees can choose from a plethora of educational opportunities and a world-class trade show.

If you're attending this year's GIS, we would like to remind you that the Nor'easter will be held on Wednesday, February 25 at Howl at The Moon in San Antonio. Brett Chapin spearheaded last year's event in Orlando. If you were there for that one, then you know we are in for a good time in San Antonio. Please don't miss it!

I hope you will take advantage of the off-season to join fellow professionals in reaping the benefits of all that these upcoming events have to offer.

Once again, I wish each and every one of you a very Happy New Year!

**Glen Dube, CGCS
President**

2014 Dave Mahoney Two-Ball Championship Builds to an Exciting Finish

by Andy Drohen of Koch Agronomic Services

The 2014 David Mahoney Two-Ball Championship came to a close with new champions crowned in the First and Second Flights! Congratulations to First Flight champs Sean Cain of Sunningdale Country Club and Steve Rabideau of Winged Foot Golf Club, and a round of applause to Second Flight winners Greg Gutter of The Care of Trees and Ken Benoit of GlenArbor Golf Club.

Here's a rundown on how the finals and a few matches leading up to the final victories unfolded.

In the First Flight

The Semis Take Surprise Turn

In their semi-final match, Sean and Steve had what was called an "epic match" with Andy Drohen (Koch Agronomic Services) and Tom Ashfield (Quaker Ridge GC). The foursome saw some great golf with a back-and-forth "rock fight" at Fresh Meadow on Long Island. Tom and Andy found themselves 2 down with 3 to go, but after back-to-back wins on 16 and 17 the match was all square with one hole left to play. In the midst of this hotly contested match, great jabs were being thrown around—all in good fun, of course! There were three decent looks at birdie on the 18th hole and although the putts were somewhat tricky, with several near misses, the match went on to sudden death down the 10th hole.

"Host Superintendent Joe Gardner had the golf course in pristine shape with some of the best greens I've seen in years," noted Andy, "and he took the time to come out and enjoy the fun, telling us about the course as we went along. We were all incredibly appreciative and grateful for Joe's hospitality!"

The match was all tied up going down the 19th hole, a long par 5 with a two-tiered, massive green and the pin up on the top shelf to the left side of the green. At this point, Andy and Tom's win seemed a sure thing, but wouldn't you know it, Sean Cain went and lined one up from 65 feet away on the bottom tier of the green. He took aim, pulled the trigger, and then riffled one toward the cup, up the hill and moving at Mach 1, where it hits the back of the cup as squarely as possible, bounces two feet

straight up in the air and into the middle of the cup for the ol' 4, net 3 eagle. The victory was theirs, moving them into the final match! Truly an amazing putt and one they'll all be talking about for years to come!

The Grand Finale at Piping Rock

Both sides seem to agree that the final match at Piping Rock was an all-out "pillow fight" until the last couple of holes with neither team being up or down more than 1 all day long. According to Chip Lafferty (Rye GC), he and his partner Bert Dickinson (Willow Ridge CC) won the 16th hole to go 1 up, while on the 17th, opponent Steve Rabideau and Chip hit shots to about 20 feet and 19 feet behind the hole.

After Steve's partner, Sean Cain and Bert made bogies, Chip went for the win and lipped out his putt, but the ball continued past the hole by about 12 feet. After watching how fast Chip's putt was, Steve, better known as "Rabbi" in these parts, strategically lagged his putt down the hill for a two-putt par and the win after Chip failed to convert his 12-footer. This brought the tightly contested match to all square heading down the 18th hole where Rabbi made a great birdie for the win, making Sean Cain and Steve Rabideau this year's First Flight Champions!

Despite the loss, this was Bert and Chip's best run to the finals, and like all the players who participated this year, they greatly appreciated the superintendents who were kind enough to host them throughout the tri-state area. Chip commented, "We had some great matches on great tracks, with great guys. Dave would have been proud!"

In the Second Flight

Formidable Competition in the Quarter-Final Match

In the quarter-finals, Greg and Ken faced the Alonzi brothers who had knocked them out in the semi-finals once before. It was nothing short of a classic battle at the new Trump Golf Links at Ferry Point. The weather was perfect, and their host, Greg Eisner, had the young track tournament-ready, even though the official opening is

not until next spring. Neither team was ever up more than one until Benoit put them up two after the 16th hole. With a halve on 17, Greg and Ken were on to the semis!

After the round, like many other matches, they broke bread with their formidable opponents and discussed how much the industry has changed and yet, in many ways, remains the same. According to Greg, there are plans for a grudge match to settle the score between these teams!

The Semi-Final Win at Whippoorwill

Greg and Ken went up against Jesse Shannon (Manhattan Woods GC) and Alex Brooks (Westchester CC), contesting their match over the rolling elevation changes of The Whippoorwill Club. According to Greg, they were once again treated to perfect weather and impeccable course conditions. "Paul Gonzalez has really upped the ante at this Northern Westchester gem," said Greg.

The match got off to a rocky start with many errant shots by all parties and a few holes won with net bogey ... ouch. Greg and Ken sheepishly made the turn up 6 after conceding a putt on the 9th to lose the hole, thinking it was a push. They then went on to close out the match on the 11th hole, putting an end to their collective misery!

Though the match was somewhat one-sided and the golf deplorable, after the round they shared fishing stories, tales of travel, and the knowledge that they all have a lot more in common professionally and personally than they would have known had they not spent their time together at Whippoorwill!

The Final Battle

For Greg Gutter and Ken Benoit, it had been a long road back to the finals. Greg and Ken truly appreciate how the Two-Ball has in every way, captured the true spirit of the event that Dave Mahoney had envisioned many years ago. "And how can you beat the friendly competition and camaraderie we're able to enjoy while playing some great area courses?" said Greg.

For their final match against Jamie Devers (Canoe Brook CC) and Michael Brunelle (Upper Montclair CC) Greg and Ken decided to head out to the Atlantic Golf Club on the east end of Long Island. Host Bob Ranum was out of town, but they had the privilege of having Bob's son Matt as their caddie for the day.

Jamie set the tone early making eagle at the first followed by Mike's net birdie on two, putting Greg and Ken 2 down quickly!

After battling back to even through six, Greg and Ken made the turn down 3! Greg and Ken rallied at half-time as any team

continued on page 10



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Watered in 6 mins aft
Total Area Treated: 75000
Dollar Spot, Fert

2 3 4 5
7 8 9 10
12 13 14 15

*Product Name: Daconil Ultrex (S)
*Total Used: 70 LB

*Product Name: Bio Max 4-0-0 (N)
*Total Used: 90 FL OZ

*Product Name: 7-0-0 (N/A)
*Total Used: 6 GAL

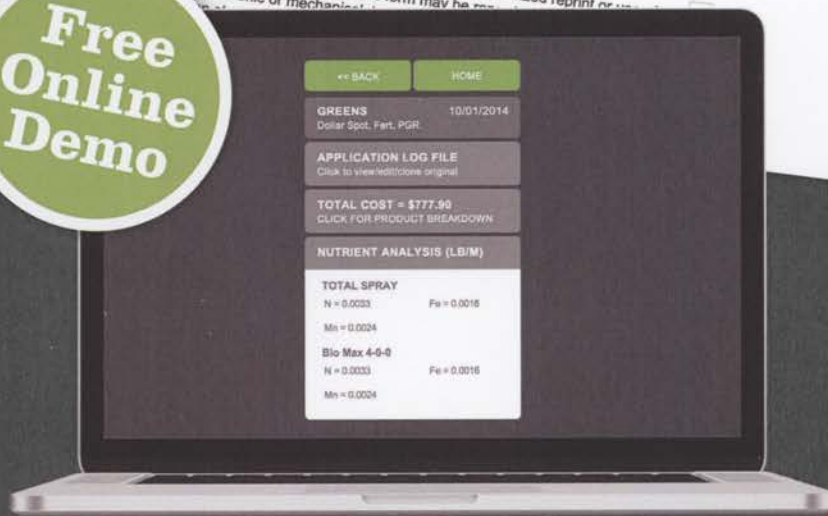
500 Gal John Deer
2 gal/m

Weather: Sunny 55, no wind
Start Time: 6am
Stop Time: 9:30am

PPE
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 Goggles
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Additional Comments
Applicator Name / License: Gary Baker -- 123

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MetGCSA/CAGCS Fall Educational Seminar Revisited

by Jim Pavonetti, CGCS

Met and Connecticut members gather turf-saving course management tips, techniques, and trends

On December 3, MetGCSA and CAGCS members convened at The Patterson Club in Fairfield, CT, for a great day of learning at the MetGCSA/CAGCS Fall Educational Seminar. Thanks goes out to Jason Meersman for hosting what has become a very popular event. Education Committees headed up by the Met's Rob Alonzi and Connecticut's Peter Gorman put together a great roster of speakers and timely topics.

For those who missed this year's event, here's a quick recap of the day's educational sessions:

2014 Year-In-Review

Adam Moeller, senior agronomist from the USGA, kicked off the day with a look back at the good, the bad, and the ugly of the 2014 season.

Most would agree that the biggest challenge in 2014 was coming through the winter in one piece. Though damage to local Met area courses was spotty, many not far from here were devastated. The great majority of winter injury that Moeller observed could be blamed on shady conditions, particularly afternoon shade that would cause a sudden drop in temperatures during a thawing period.

As a rule of thumb, he recommends ensuring that your greens get three to four hours of morning sunlight and seven to eight hours of all-day sunlight between March 21 and September 21.

Thank goodness this summer was more moderate than most in recent years. Moeller

cautions that while many of us were able to push tournament conditions all last summer, memberships should not assume that to be the norm. Maintaining those kinds of conditions must be more the exception than the rule for the health and welfare of our turf and golf courses.

For more information, Adam Moeller can be reached at amoeller@usga.org.

Turf Insect Pest Year-In-Review: Wacky Weather, Old Foes, and Emerging Issues

Dr. Ben McGraw, from Penn State University, spoke about various insect issues that affect our operations and lives. One of the most meddlesome pests is still the annual bluegrass weevil. Though it seems that control and chemical resistance issues vary from property to property, there are reports of weevils showing resistance to pyrethroids and, now, even to chlorpyrifos (Dursban) products.

One new product available this year, but only to those outside New York, is Ference from Syngenta. If you haven't done so already, please take part in Dr. McGraw's annual bluegrass survey. The more responses he gets, the more useful his data will be in establishing a way to control this pest once and for all. The survey can be found at <http://goo.gl/forms/vcNHRRVc24>.

Dr. McGraw also spoke about a very important issue that has made it to mainstream media: the protection of bee populations. Some of the tips he gave include controlling turf weeds that bees like to pollinate, such as white clover, before you apply an insecticide. The theory is, if you control the weeds first with a herbicide, which does not harm

bees, the bees will move to another area once the weeds are dead. This will allow the turf manager to then apply an insecticide to the turf without harming any bees.

Another tip is to confine insecticide applications to the early morning, when bees are less active, rather than the afternoon when bees are most active.

For more information, Dr. McGraw can be reached at bam53@psu.edu.

Best Management Practices for Anthracnose Control on Annual Bluegrass Putting Green Turf

Next up, Dr. James Murphy, from Rutgers University, gave us a list of various best management practices (BMPs) for the control and management of anthracnose on *Poa annua* putting greens. Most of the BMPs included nonchemical means to heading off the disease.

Among his recommendations: Keep the soil pH in the mid-sevens and the fertility on the higher side, especially nitrogen and potassium. Make light, sand topdressing applications (100 pounds per 1,000 square feet) every 7 to 14 days. And avoid saturated conditions, as well as wilt conditions.

The take-home message: Keep the greens healthy, and manage ball roll by regulating growth with Primo Maxx, a less stress-inducing management practice to increase green speed.

The Size of Topdressing Sand: Does It Matter?

After a great lunch, Dr. Murphy returned to tell us about the rising trend of topdressing with finer sand during the season.

The benefits of the finer sand are less mower pickup and lower stress on the mechanics. The idea is to use the finer sands and light, frequent topdressings during the season and then the traditional coarser sands (USGA approved) when filling aeration holes.

Dr. Murphy's study is trying to determine the long-term effects of this practice, both



good and bad. Right now, the data is only one year old, so there is still much to learn.

For more information on best management practices for anthracnose or on top-dressing with finer sands, Dr. Murphy can be reached at murphy@aesop.rutgers.edu.

How Does Your Water Measure Up?

The day concluded with Kathy Conard, from Turf Diagnostics, speaking about irrigation water quality, how it affects our turf conditions, and how we can manage poor water quality.

When it comes to water testing, Conard emphasized the importance of using the same laboratory to keep the data as consistent as possible. She also recommended testing the water from both your ponds (or whatever your water source is) and a sprinkler, just to see if there are differences.

High bicarbonates and high salts are the most common problems, but they can be managed with regular flushings and calcium sulfate (gypsum).

Conard also spoke about the importance of managing the pH of our spray tank water

because chemicals will not work properly if they are being mixed at the wrong pH.

She also gave us a list of things to consider when choosing a wetting agent.

Among them:

- How long do you want the wetting agent to last?
- What is the soil type?
- How much thatch is present?
- What is the percolation rate?
- What kind of disease problems have been observed?
- What is the water quality?
- Do you want the wetting agent to retain water or push water through the profile?

There are products that are designed to fit nearly every need, you just have to go through the process to make sure that the product you choose is right for your property.

For more information about water quality management, Kathy Conard can be reached at mktpros@voicenet.com.

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



Scorecard continued from page 8

down 3 would do, with a cold beverage!

Greg and Ken managed to pick up the pieces and keep the match within reach through the back nine, but every time they had the opportunity to even the match, Mike's red-hot putter and laser focus would lead to another halve. Greg managed a par on 17 to even the match and there was hope with Ken getting his last stroke on the par 5 eighteenth hole.

Gutter knew that it was time to offer his partner an encouraging word on the way to the tee. With that, Benoit managed his best drive of the day, taking some pressure off and Gutter followed with one of his own right down the middle! Mike's tee ball found a tough side-hill lie in the rough and Jaime found the fescue. With their opponents in trouble on the last, Ken made a smooth par to win the hole and with it, Greg and Ken won this year's Second Flight!

The Benefits of Qualifying

For those of you who have not come out to qualify for this great season-long event, we would encourage you to join in the fun. The friendly competition is only one facet of what makes it special. Don't get me wrong, trophies and bragging rights are always a plus, but the true significance of this event is what Dave Mahoney had envisioned many years ago and what many players echoed this year: It's sharing ideas and laughs, experiencing great courses, and spending time getting to know fellow members.

I can guarantee you will benefit from the wisdom and experiences of your opponents and the commonality of the challenges we all face both on and off the golf course. If you're not already joining in the fun, call someone in the association and sign up next year, because in the heat of the summer with all the stress in our lives, spending a morning or afternoon out at other facilities with your peers will make you understand how much more there is to life than the day-to-day rat race!

I hope to see you at the qualifying round in April!

New Members

Please join us in welcoming the following new MetGCSA members:

- **Corbin Blier**, Class C, Fresh Meadow Country Club, Great Neck, NY
- **Greg Coughlin**, Class C, Sleepy Hollow Country Club, Scarborough, NY
- **Jonathan Erickson**, Class C, The Patterson Club, Fairfield, CT
- **Royal Healy**, Class C, Sleepy Hollow Country Club, Scarborough, NY
- **Dan Lusty**, Class C, Quaker Ridge Golf Club, Scarsdale, NY
- **Christopher Tegano**, Class C, Oak Hills Park Golf Course, Norwalk, CT

Members on the Move

- **Aaron Crouse** has been promoted from an assistant superintendent at Westchester Country Club in Rye, NY, to superintendent of the club's South Course.
- **Joseph Gikis** has been promoted from an assistant superintendent at Westchester Country Club in Rye, NY, to construction superintendent/assistant director of Golf & Grounds at Westchester.
- **Shannon Slevin** is the new superintendent at Old Oaks Country Club in Purchase, NY. Previous position: Superintendent at Shorehaven Golf Club in East Norwalk, CT.
- **Doug Vanderlee** has moved from superintendent of the South Course at Westchester Country Club in Rye, NY, to superintendent of the club's West Course.

Births

Congratulations to:

- **Doug Snyder**, superintendent at the Millbrook Club in Greenwich, CT, and his wife, Erin, on the birth of their daughter, Clodagh Duffy Snyder, who was 7 lbs. 3 ozs. and born on December 19.
- **Stephen Wickstrom**, assistant superintendent at Burning Country Club in Greenwich, CT, and his wife, Tina, on the birth of their son, Owen Fredrick Wickstrom, who was 8 lbs. 6 ozs. and born on December 19.

In Sympathy

We would like to offer our sincere condolences to informed member **Dr. Frank Rossi** of Cornell University. His father, Angelo Rocco Rossi, passed away January 4.



Lucky Winners in the Holiday Party Scholarship Raffle

The Annual Bill Caputi Scholarship Raffle, held at the December 5 MetGCSA Holiday Party at Via Veneto, White Plains, NY, raised an admirable sum for the Met's Scholarship Fund and awarded \$4,500 in cash prizes to 18 lucky ticket holders.

The raffle, which has become an institution at our annual holiday party, is the prime source of the scholarship awards we distribute to deserving Met member dependents each year. It was named in honor of Bill Caputi, one of our member superintendents who initiated the Met's Scholarship program but, unfortunately, passed away unexpectedly at a young age.

Many thanks to all who contributed and also to those who sold tickets for this worthwhile fundraiser. Congratulations to our \$1,000-grand-prize winner, **Doug Drugo**, from Wee Burn Country Club.

The other prize winners were:



\$500 Winners

- Bill Salinetti**, National Golf Links of America
Bob Wolverton, Century Country Club
Bobby Steinman, Pocono Turf

\$250 Winners

- Wes Neff**, Winged Foot Golf Club
Paul Gonzalez, Whipoorwill Club
Dave Conrad, Plant Food Company
Jeff Scott, Tamarack Country Club

\$100 Winners

- Mike Keohan**, Brookville Country Club
Doug Mottin, Mottin Golf Course Renovations

- Jon Jennings**, Shinnecock Hills Golf Club
Gary Rehm, Metro Turf Specialists
Joe Stahl, Harrell's, LLC
Bill Cygan, Winged Foot Golf Club
Dennis Flynn, Screamin Eagle Supply
Bob Milar, St. Andrew's Golf Club
Ben Seibel, son of Kevin Seibel of Century Country Club
Joe Gikis, Westchester Country Club

Please remember to support the scholarship raffle again in 2015. Wouldn't it be great to raise enough money to fund even more scholarships for our membership's deserving sons and daughters?

Met members had a blast at the MetGCSA Holiday Party held on December 5, 2014. Via Veneto's fine Italian cuisine and dancing to the sounds of DJ Stiltz made this an event to remember!

Rich Apgar

Todd Apgar

Scott Apgar

**Drew & Jon White,
Doug & Elizabeth Vanderlee,
& Gady & Brian Gallagher**

**Bob Wolverton, David Dudones,
& Glen Dube**

**Shannon Roo, Alisha McCaffrey,
Kelly Miller, & Dana Drugo**

Dana Niven

**Bob Nielsen &
Paul Gonzalez**

Kevin Collins

**Carolyn Nielsen, Erica Dube,
& Kristen Halderman**

**Eve Gentile &
Terri Gonzalez**

Renee Pavonetti

**DJ Stiltz, Megan Baggott,
& Bob Wolverton**

Photos courtesy Megan Baggott.

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