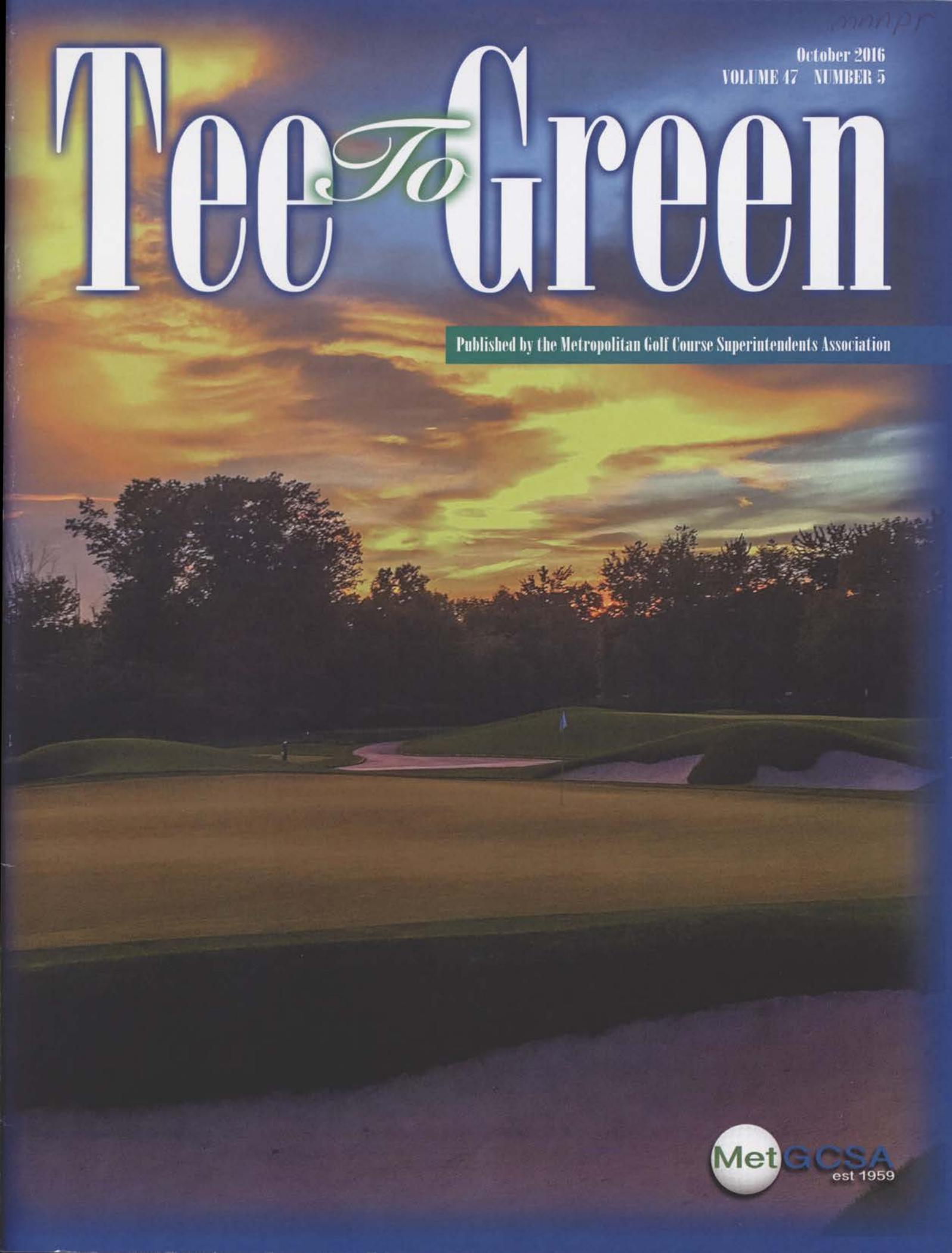


manpr

October 2016
VOLUME 47 NUMBER 5

Tee To Green

Published by the Metropolitan Golf Course Superintendents Association



Board of Directors



President

GLEN DUBE, CGCS
Centennial Golf Club

Vice President

DAVID DUDONES
Westchester Country Club

Treasurer

KENNETH BENOIT JR., CGCS
Glen Arbor Golf Club

Secretary

ROBERT B. ALONZI JR.
Fenway Golf Club

Past President

BLAKE HALDERMAN, CGCS
Brae Burn Country Club

Directors

MICHAEL BRUNELLE, CGCS
Upper Montclair Country Club

BRETT CHAPIN
Redding Country Club

BRIAN CHAPIN
Paramount Country Club

DOUG DRUGO
Wee Burn Country Club

STEVEN McGLONE
Sivanoy Country Club

VINCENT PAVONETTI, CGCS
Fairview Country Club

Class "C" Rep

DAVID PARSON
The Apawamis Club

Class "AF" Rep

ROBERT STEINMAN, CGCS
Pocono Turf

Executive Director

MIKE McCALL, CGCS

Executive Secretary

SUSAN O'DOWD

Tee to Green Staff

Editor

JIM PAVONETTI
203-531-8910

Managing Editor

PANDORA C. WOJICK

Editorial Committee

TODD APGAR	STEVEN McGLONE
MATT CEPLO	BOB NIELSEN
KEVIN COLLINS	SCOTT NIVEN
ANDY DROHEN	TOM REYES
CHIP LAFFERTY	GREG WOJICK

Designer

TERRIE YOUNG

Advertising Manager

MIKE BRUNELLE, 973-777-6710

TEE TO GREEN is published bimonthly by the Metropolitan Golf Course Superintendents Association
49 Knollwood Road, Elmsford, NY 10523-2819
914-347-4653, FAX: 914-347-3437, METGCSA.ORG
Copyright © 2016

Tee To Green



Cover: Upper Montclair Country Club.

In this Issue

Feature

The New York State BMP Program Continues to Engage Industry in Safeguarding Water Quality.....2

Departments

Member News4

Regional News5

Scorecard6

Spotlight8

Upcoming Events11

MetGCSA Summer Social12

President's Message

Season- Ending Events and Notes

EVENTS

MetGCSA
est 1959

SERIALS

DEC 07 2016

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
LIBRARIES

Y

ou know the season is coming to an end each year when our schedule of events picks up. Starting with the Nine and Dine at Silvermine on September 14, we have had several notable golf outings: the Poa Annual Tournament at Metropolis Country Club on September 26, which raised more than \$5,000 for NYSTA, and then the Assistants Championship on November 1 at Upper Montclair Country Club. Dubbed the Battle of the Bridges, this joint meeting pitted the MetGCSA against GCSA of New Jersey for what was, no surprise, a great event. Our assistants certainly deserved a nice day out on a course other than their own.

We can't thank our meeting hosts—Larry Pakkala, Dave McCaffrey, and Mike Brunelle and assistant hosts Kyle Zarnetski, Sean Blatz, and Steve Benally—enough for providing us with pristine conditions and challenging setups. Check out this issue's Scorecards for the results of these events.

And the Events Go On

The golf may be over for the season, but the schedule of events goes on starting with our November 2 Annual Meeting. In addition to board elections, the meeting included a talk on the new salaried employee overtime laws that will be implemented in the near future. Be sure to read my next—and last—President's Message for the details!

In the meantime, please mark your calendars with the season's final two upcoming events: the Fall Seminar and our Annual Christmas Party.

The Patterson Club and Superintendent Jason Meersman will host our Fall Seminar again this year on November 17. Education Chair Brett Chapin and his committee have a great roster of speakers for this perennially well-attended event. (See Upcoming Events on page 11 for topics.)

Last but not least is our Christmas Party. Be sure to join us December 8 at Bonnie Briar Country Club. We've altered our party format, making our holiday gathering a daytime, weekday event, with hors d'oeuvres and open bar. This will be the perfect oppor-



*Glen Dube, CGCS
MetGCSA President*

tunity to kick back and celebrate the end of an extremely challenging season!

Speaking of a Challenging Season . . .

I can't end my message without acknowledging just how incredibly challenging—no, *BRUTAL*—this summer has been for many of us. The season started out relatively uneventful and then by July, all hell broke loose. High temps and low rainfall yielded to a period of heavy rains combined with high humidity, high temps, and wet compacted soils. Turf developed shallow root systems and disease, and then it became hot and dry again. You know the rest of the story. Anyone with *Poa annua* faced the greatest challenges.

If there's one thing I learn time and time again, it's that this business can be absolutely unforgiving. Worn out from doing battle against failing turf and struggling to motivate staff to keep moving, it's often difficult to see any positives. I guess sometimes the only bright spot is that we, along with the tremendous support of our crews, make it through and hopefully learn something in the process.

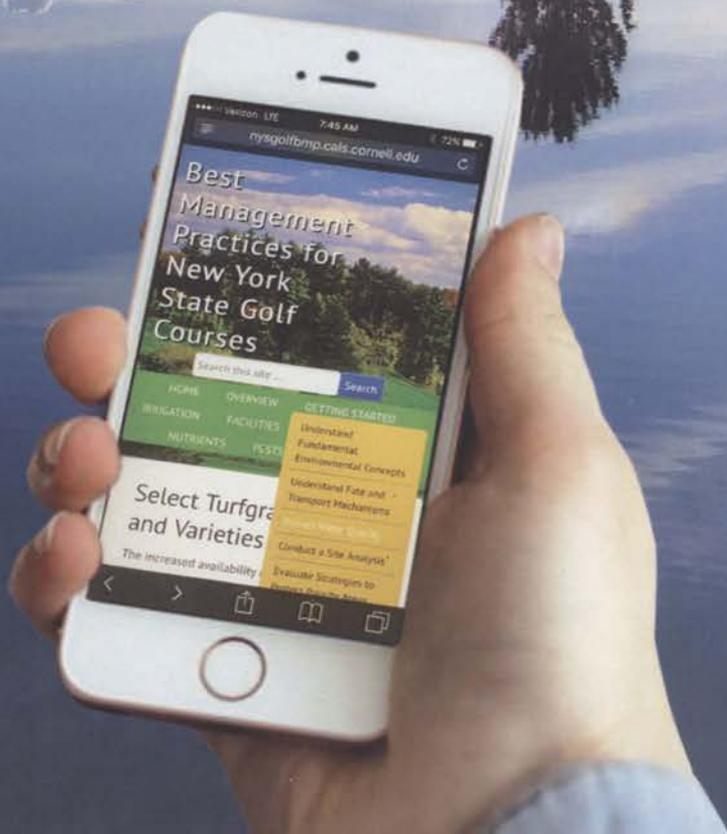
Giving Credit Where Credit Is Due

While mentioning all of our season-ending events, I thought it was the perfect time to give credit where credit is due: to our Class AF members. We want to make sure you know just how much we appreciate your generous and continued support of the MetGCSA year in and year out. So please accept my thanks, on behalf of the entire Met board, for all you do!

*Glen Dube, CGCS
MetGCSA President*

The New York State BMP Program Continues to Engage Industry in Safeguarding Water Quality

by Ken Benoit, CGCS





he New York State Best Management Practices (BMPs) Committee has been hard at work over the past year developing and implementing a self-assessment program intended to encourage New York State superintendents' use of the standards set forth in the BMP manual for protecting water quality.

How It All Began: BMPs in the Making

As stewards of the environment and the golf courses they manage, superintendents are dedicated to protecting our natural resources and maintaining our facilities in harmony with the environment. But with growing concern over protecting our water systems, it became apparent that it was in our best interest to take a proactive approach to ensuring that superintendents were doing their part in protecting water quality, on and around our golf courses.

As most MetGCSA members are aware, in 2012 golf course superintendents from New York State GCSA chapters formed a committee that became the driving force in the creation of a comprehensive document and website detailing BMPs for New York State golf courses.

Joining forces with a team of turfgrass researchers from Cornell University, the New York State DEC, and a number of government officials, the committee, which now includes all nine of the state's golf course superintendent associations, developed a standard set of practices, essentially guiding principles, that demonstrate our commitment to protecting—even enhancing—the environment.

More specifically, the BMPs provide guidelines for protecting water quality, reducing pesticide use and storm water volume, peak flow, and nonpoint source pollution through evapotranspiration, infiltration, detention, and filtering, as well as biological and chemical actions. They are detailed in the New York State BMP website (nysgolfbmp.cals.cornell.edu), which has been up-and-running since 2014 and is easily accessible on multiple platforms: desktop, laptop, or mobile device.

For those who might not have logged on, the site is impressive, starting with an opening message on the home page from renowned golf course designer and professional golfer Gary Player. Maneuvering the site is made simple with a pull-down

menu of BMP categories and sublinks that will bring you to just about any BMP-related information you're looking for.

Also handy are links to fact sheets on specific BMPs, which can be printed or easily emailed to staff, Green Committee members, or regulators who may need clarification on a specific practice. For those who would rather view the BMP manual in print than online, all 185 pages of the BMP manual are available for printing directly from the site.

Creating the BMP manual has made science-based information and guidance available in one easily accessible and comprehensive resource and has helped the golf industry to work in concert with policymakers and regulators in our shared commitment to environmental stewardship.

Validating BMP Use

Over the past year, the committee developed a BMP knowledge quiz and self-assessment survey that was taken by more than 100 representatives from New York State golf courses, including superintendents, assistant superintendents, and club owners across the state.

The self-assessment was useful in determining superintendents' current level of knowledge about BMP concepts, while the survey focused on understanding how many of the BMPs are actually being put into practice in superintendents' daily operations.

Among the findings:

- 96 percent of those surveyed use a variety of methods to successfully manage organic matter, reducing the potential for runoff from compacted soils.
- 92 percent use multiple factors to determine appropriate nutrient applications, which can help to reduce the potential for nitrogen and phosphorus runoff and leaching.
- 67 percent utilize the infiltration rate to schedule irrigation cycles, which can save water and reduce the potential for runoff.
- Nearly 50 percent monitor water quality.



With the results from the quiz and survey, the committee has begun work on designing an educational program that will provide verifiable evidence to regulatory agencies that superintendents are, in fact, utilizing the New York State BMPs. The BMP Committee will convene at the November NYSTA Conference in Rochester, NY, to fine-tune the program and discuss future opportunities for additional education and outreach.

Case studies that illustrate BMPs at work in the state are also being continually developed. Available on the website (see the pull-down menu on the home page), these case studies can provide regulatory agencies with real-life examples of how superintendents are putting into practice the New York State BMPs and having a positive and demonstrable impact on the environment. The case studies are also useful in assisting superintendents in identifying areas for potential improvement in their own golf course operations.

In addition to the currently available case studies, the BMP Committee has recently been awarded funds by the New York State Integrated Pest Management Community IPM Projects Committee to develop a video case study on BMPs for pollinators. The video is expected to be completed and available on the website in early 2017.

Signs of Success

Our effort to voluntarily implement BMPs is paying off. In Suffolk County Long Island this year, superintendents were facing possible nitrogen regulations related to IR1309-Bill. They used the BMPs to help demonstrate their active commitment to protecting water quality.



Nationally, our BMP program is being recognized as well. Other states are developing BMPs, using our web-based approach as a reference. In addition, the GCSAA has sought our input in their effort to provide formal assistance to other states interested in developing BMPs. GCSAA is planning to unveil its BMP program in Orlando at next year's GIS.

Looking Ahead

Taking steps to integrate BMPs into your daily golf course management practices may, at first, seem like more trouble than it's worth, but there is no doubt that adhering to these environmentally responsible practices will spare us from unwarranted criticism in the community and from government regulations that are unjustly restrictive.

As environmental stewards, protecting the environment is one of our primary responsibilities. And well implemented, the BMPs will go a long way toward supporting our environmental initiatives and efforts.

Ken Benoit, superintendent of Glen Arbor Golf Club in Bedford Hills, NY, is chairman of the

New Members

Please join us in welcoming the following new MetGCSA members:

- **Ian Blackmar**, Class C, The Stanwich Club, Greenwich, CT
- **Jamison Lapan**, Class C, Winged Foot Golf Club, Mamaroneck, NY
- **Weston Neff**, Class C, Winged Foot Golf Club, Mamaroneck, NY
- **Carlos Sanes**, Class C, Fairview Country Club, Greenwich, CT
- **Robert Saunders**, Class AF, Winfield Solutions, LLC, Trumbull, CT

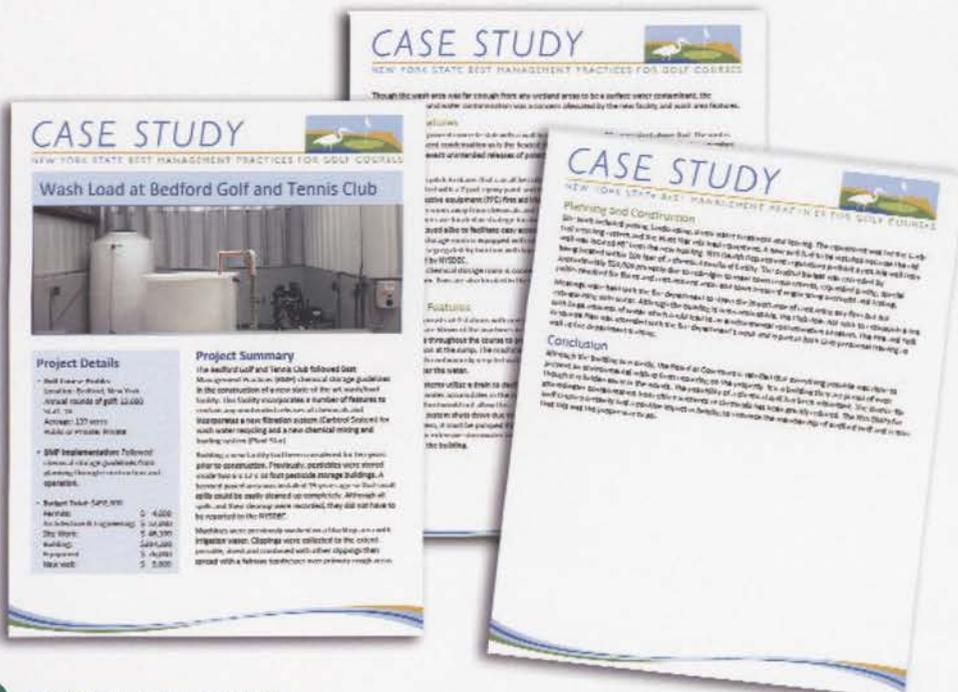


Member on the Move

Bill Cygan is the new superintendent at Silver Spring Country Club in Ridgefield, CT. Previous position: Assistant superintendent at Winged Foot Golf Club, Mamaroneck, NY.

Birth

Congratulations to Hudson Hills Golf Course Superintendent **Grover Alexander** and his wife, Jennifer, on the birth of their son, Walker Alexander, born 8 lbs. 8 ozs. on September 28.



What's the Tri-State Turf Research Foundation Funding Now?

by Scott Niven, CGCS

Since 1990, the Tri-State Turf Research Foundation has been concerned with finding environmentally safe controls for turfgrass pests and problems pertinent to tri-state area golf courses. This year is no different: The Tri-State is supporting four research projects that are taking place at three different universities in the Northeast.

These studies are made possible through donations from our association and five others—GCSA of New Jersey, Connecticut AGCS, Long Island GCSA, Hudson Valley GCSA, and the MGA—as well as through the support of vendors and area clubs, like yours. We sincerely thank those of you who have donated to this worthwhile cause and urge those who haven't yet joined our list of contributors to respond to our annual request for a \$225 donation.

What follows is a quick look at the research the Tri-State is currently supporting. You'll find a full report on these projects and their outcomes in the Tri-State's annual publication, *Foundation News*, at the start of the new year.



• **Putting Surfactants and Synergists to Work in Controlling ABW on Golf Course Turf.** University of Rhode Island's Dr. Steven Alm is looking to identify surfactants effective in controlling ABW. At the same time, Dr. Alm will focus his efforts on developing new methods for applying many of the currently available insecticides to minimize resistance development and improve efficacy.



• **Examining the Role of Bentgrass Tolerance, Disease Predictive Models, and Fungicide Timing in Controlling Dollar Spot on Fairway Turf.** More fungicides are used on fairway turf to control dollar spot disease than any other pathogen in golf course turf. With this in mind, Rutgers' Drs. Bruce Clarke and James Murphy and graduate student James Hempfling have embarked on research designed to pinpoint best management practices that will provide superintendents with the tools to obtain optimum control of this persistent disease with minimal fungicide inputs. By establishing BMPs that reduce fungicide use on fairways, the largest area of short-cut turf on golf courses, the researchers also foresee significant benefits to the environment, as well as clubs' chemical budgets.



• **Examining the Role of Syringing Practices in Preventing Summer Decline of Creeping Bentgrass.** Dr. Bingru Huang and her research team from Rutgers University are working to determine the optimum timing of syringing for maximum effect in alleviating heat stress, i.e., summer bentgrass decline, on bentgrass putting greens.



• **Analyzing the Impact of Management Practices on Putting Green Playability and Plant Health During Tournament Prep.** Penn State's Dr. John Kaminski is seeking ways to maximize tournament conditions without adding stress to bentgrass and *Poa* putting greens, particularly from practices that are not resulting in playability improvements. He has focused his efforts on the two most commonly used practices to achieve faster green speeds: height of cut and mowing frequency, which are generally intensified leading up to the start of a tournament.

Final Note

With turfgrass issues never-ending and environmental concerns and controls continuing to escalate, we can't afford *not* to support new research. Your annual donation to the Tri-State Turf Research Foundation is an investment well made—in your ability to preserve quality conditions on your course, as well as the vitality and integrity of the game of golf.

Scott Niven, property manager of The Stanwich Club and member of the Tee to Green Editorial Committee, is a past president and current board member of the Tri-State Turf Research Foundation.

Nine and Dine Cut Short by Cloudburst

This year's annual Nine and Dine event was held September 14 at Silvermine Golf Club in Norwalk, CT. Our host superintendent, Larry Pakkala, had the course in top condition for the 48 players who came out to compete in the four-person scramble and enjoy the post-golf pig roast.

Though it started out as a nice afternoon, players were chased off the course after the 7th hole by a large cloudburst and thunderstorm, turning the nine-hole event into a seven-hole tournament. Here are the two groups who came out on top:

First Flight Winners

Glenn Perry, *Rolling Hills Country Club*
Tony Grasso, *Jacobsen/Textron*
Bill Perlee, *The Apawamis Club*
Scott Tretera, *Harrell's LLC*

Second Flight Winners

Brett Chapin, *Redding Country Club*
Member, *Redding Country Club*
Member, *Redding Country Club*
Scott Apgar, *Metro Turf Specialists*

Special Thanks

We would like to thank everyone who came out and supported the day, with special thanks to our Ace sponsors, Golf Professional Stuart Waack and his staff for running the event, the members of Silvermine for hosting our group, and of course, Larry Pakkala, and his staff for providing us with a superb playing field.

As we move toward wrapping up another season, the MetGCSA Board and Tournament Committee would like to thank everyone for supporting this year's events.

Philadelphia Takes Home 2016 Met Area Team Championship Trophy

by Andy Drohen, Met Area Team Championship Co-Chair

The 36th Annual Met Area Team Championship was held on September 26 at The Country Club of Scranton in Clarks Summit, PA. Host Greg Boring, who recently added the role of general manager to his duties as superintendent, had the golf course in absolutely spectacular shape after one of the driest and hottest seasons on record in the Northeast. Players from up and down the East Coast were equally impressed with how fast and smooth the greens were at Scranton!

About the Course

The 1927 Walter Travis original has undergone a massive tree management program, opening up sight lines and restoring views on the golf course, as well as opening up golf holes, which, according to Greg, has allowed the course to be played the way Travis intended it. In 2010, the club hired Tom Marzolf of Fazio Design to complete a master plan, restoring bunkers and bringing greens back to their original shapes and sizes.

Scranton is a perennial Top 100 classical golf course and has hosted several major events, including both men's and women's State Amateur Championships over the years. Scranton is a true gem of a course and, by all accounts, another great venue on the Met Area Team Championship rotation!

Mighty Close Match

This year's championship was truly one of the closest battles ever contested, with just six shots separating the top five teams! (See full results on the following page.) Representing the MetGCSA were Gross team players Tom Ashfield, Jim Swiatlowski, Steve Loughran, and Mike Weber. Net players were Scott Niven, Brett Chapin, Tim Walker, and Mike McCall, (filling in for us last minute.) Though the Met team wasn't among the top 5, it did place in the middle of the pack with a score of 307.

The Philadelphia AGCS came away victorious for the fourth time in the past 12

years, this time narrowly defeating Connecticut with just one stroke and a score of 292! Congratulations to one and all of the players from Philly, who included John Gosselin, Andy Drohen, Joe Owsik, and Chet Walsh on the Gross side and Rich Sweeney, Jon Urbanski, Sumner Cross, and Rob Nolek on the Net side.

Taking Care of Our Own

As many of you may know, this event is more than just about golf. Each year, funds raised during the championship go to a cause of the MetGCSA board's choice. Over the past six years, we have raised more than \$7,500 and have supported superintendents, industry representatives, and their families in times of need.

This past year, we donated \$2,000 to the superintendents at The Greenbrier in West Virginia after the devastating flooding that took place there this summer.

Special Thanks

Once again, the Met Area Team Championship was made possible by our seven major sponsors who have stepped up year after year to make this one of the best events across North America!

Please join me in thanking Aquatrols, BASF, Bayer, The Care of Trees, Koch Turf & Ornamental, Syngenta, and Toro for their ongoing support.

A special thank you also goes to Shaun Barry, our perennial photographer! We have uploaded all of Shaun's photos here: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/118804232@N02/albums/72157673518202591>.

And thank you, again, to Greg Boring and his entire staff and all the folks at The Country Club of Scranton for another successful championship!

We look forward to seeing everyone next year, and stay tuned for announcements over the winter and look for information about the Nor'easter Ski Day, which will be here before you know it!

The Complete Results

What follows is a list of team and proximity winners. Congratulations everyone!

Team Scores (Par 288)

1st / 292	Philadelphia AGCS
2nd / 293	Connecticut AGCS
3rd / 295	GCSA of New Jersey
4th / 297	Eastern Shore AGCS
5th / 298	Long Island GCSA
6th / 303	Pocono Turfgrass Association
7th / 305	GCSA of New England
8th / 307	MetGCSA
9th / 309	GCSA of Cape Cod
T10th / 313	Northeastern GCSA
T10th / 313	Central New York GCSA
12th / 315	Mid-Atlantic AGCS
13th / 316	Hudson Valley GCSA
14th / 318	Rhode Island GCSA

Closest to the Pin

#3 / 3' 9"	Chet Walsh Philadelphia AGCS (Sponsored by Koch Turf & Ornamental)
------------	--

#5 / 7' 6"	Josh Yerdon Northeastern GCSA (Sponsored by BASF)
#11 / 6' 10"	Ryan Howard Eastern Shores AGCS (Sponsored by Toro)
#17 / 4' 10"	Ryan Howard Eastern Shores AGCS (Sponsored by Syngenta)

Longest Drive

Net Div.	Jerry Decker Pocono Turfgrass Association (Sponsored by The Care of Trees)
Gross Div.	Tom Ashfield MetGCSA (Sponsored by Aquatrols)
Sponsors Div.	Kevin Seibel Century Country Club (Sponsored by Bayer)

Low Gross Team Winners

72	Rob Johnson & Jeff Haas GCSA of New Jersey
----	---

Sponsored Team Winners

73	Dennis DeSanctis & Lee Kozsey Syngenta
----	---

We Want Your Feedback!

We would like to make sure that the Met Area Team Championship is the best that it can be. We have put together a brief survey for those of you who have had the opportunity to play in the championship over the past several years, and we would appreciate your input. It's completely anonymous, so speak your mind! The survey link is <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/5DPRZJM>.

Andy Drohen
Co-Chair
Met Area Team Championship

Two-Man High Score

Gross / 85	Kevin Smith & Steve McDonald Eastern Shore AGCS
Net / 80	Drew Cummins & Nick Burchard Rhode Island GCSA



Tom Ashfield & Tom Weinert



Kevin Collins



Mike Cook & Kevin Seibel



Metropolis Hosts a Day of Fundraising and Fun on the Links

by Mike McCall, MetGCSA
Executive Director

On October 3, MetGCSA members convened for a day of golf and giving at Metropolis Country Club in White Plains, NY. The Poa Annual Tournament raises funds to help support the New York State Turfgrass Foundation. This year, 31 tee signs were sold, which combined with golfer contributions raised \$5,375 for NYSTA.

Our host, Superintendent David McCaffrey, treated us to a spectacular day of golf, while General Manager Tracy Fraus laid out the red carpet of cuisine. The day offered the perfect balance of burning calories while playing this meticulously manicured and challenging Tillinghast gem and then replacing them (and then some) with a culinary variety that left no one wanting.

Despite threatening weather leading up to the event, more than 60 golfers played in the tournament. Here's how they fared:

Gross Winners

- 73 Pete Jacobsen, *BASF Corporation*
Dan Rogers, *Wykagyl Country Club*
- 75 Tom Weinert, *Plant Food Company*
David McCaffrey, *Metropolis Country Club*
- 76 Dick Neufeld, *Plant Food Company*
Guy Gurney, *Hollow Brook Golf Club*

Net Winners

- 66 Charlie Seimers, *Westchester Tractor*
Lou Rinaldi, *Westchester Tractor*
- 67 Bob Nielsen, *Bedford Golf & Tennis Club*
Bill Perlee, *The Apawamis Club*
- 68 Jarad Luknicki, *Metropolis Country Club*
Ryan St. Pierre, *Metropolis Country Club*

Closest to the Pin

John DePaul, *Westchester Tractor*
Billy Pray, *Dogwood Knolls*

Longest Drive

Justin Miller, *Wee Burn Country Club*

Spotlight

Annual Assistants Championship Hotly Contested at Upper Montclair

by Tom Reyes

Heavy rains pushed the Annual Assistants Championship from its original October 27 date to November 1, when MetGCSA assistants were able to enjoy a beautiful day of friendly competition at Upper Montclair Country Club in Clifton, NJ. (See results on page 10.)

Our assistant hosts, Kyle Zarnetski, Sean Blatz, Steve Benally, and Superintendent Mike Brunelle served up some great conditions for a superb round of golf.

The Course: Past and Present

The course you see today is quite different than the Upper Montclair of yesteryear, which began with a small group of golfers playing on a rudimentary five-hole golf course in a Montclair meadow. In 1901, this group merged with a social organization called the "Upper Ten Club," and the Upper Montclair Country Club was born.

By 1903, the club had expanded to nine holes and continued to evolve over the years, with new nines opening in 1909/1910, and 1930, the last an A.W. Tillinghast design.

This gave the club 27 holes, which remained largely untouched until the 1950s, when the construction of the Garden State Parkway claimed six of Upper Montclair's holes.

Between 1954 and 1958, Robert Trent Jones Sr. directed a major golf course renovation, which transformed the Upper Montclair Country Club into its present 27-hole championship design.

Starting with the Thunderbird Classic in 1962, Upper Montclair hosted numerous professional tours through 2009. The club is one of only a few country clubs worldwide known to have hosted tournaments for all three Professional Golf Associations.

Most recently, in 2011, the club completed a Master Plan golf course renovation project that included installing a new state-of-the-art drainage and irrigation system, while reshaping and restoring all of the bunkers throughout the 27-hole facility.

"I enjoyed having the Assistants Championship at Upper Montclair and showcasing our efforts and the conditions we provide for our membership on a daily basis," says Senior Assistant Kyle Zarnetski. "Hosting this year's tournament in New Jersey was huge in my opinion," adds Kyle, "because it allowed us to bring the event to some of the people who don't always get to travel to other areas."

About Kyle Zarnetski

Senior Assistant Superintendent Kyle Zarnetski has been a part of the Upper Montclair Country Club management team for seven years. Kyle got his feet wet in golf course maintenance working summers at the New Haven Country Club in his New Haven, CT, hometown. "After four seasons on the crew," says Kyle, "I couldn't see myself doing anything else."

He pursued formal training at Rutgers, and after completing his certification from the Professional Golf Turf Management School and an internship at Trump National Bedminster, Kyle signed on in 2010 as a second assistant with Upper Montclair Country Club. Two seasons later, he was promoted to his current role as senior assistant.

"Dedication and sacrifice lead to the greatest rewards," says Kyle, attributing his rise in command to his strong work ethic. With an eye toward becoming a golf course superintendent one day soon, Kyle furthered his schooling and is close to completing his bachelor's in Turf Management from Penn State. He has also bolstered his experience and resume by volunteering at The Barclay's at its various locations for the past eight years, the KPMG Women's Open at Westchester Country Club, and the Sybase Match Play Championship at Hamilton Farm Golf Club.

Joining the MetGCSA in 2012, Kyle has been actively involved in the association's Class C Committee, which assists the board's Class C rep in organizing the Assistants Championship and the Assistants



Left to right: Steve Benally, Mike Brunelle, Kyle Zarnetski, and Sean Blatz, pleased to host the 2016 Assistants Championship.

Educational Seminar, as well as assisting the Tournament Committee in a variety of capacities.

When he's not enmeshed in an industry commitment, Kyle enjoys spending some of his free time at the gym, and the rest trying to find time to relax. He jokes that he is an "avid napper," which is, no doubt, soon to change, as he is expecting his first child in mid-September with his wife-to-be, Lindsay.

About Sean Blatz

Assistant Superintendent Sean Blatz isn't shy about telling you that he's still getting his feet wet in an industry that has a significant learning curve. Working at Upper Montclair for his second season, Sean is clearly coming to the other side of the curve. He started in December 2015 as an assistant-in-training and, after just nine months, was promoted to assistant superintendent. "I've learned more from working under Mike (Brunelle, the superintendent) and Kyle than at school," says Sean, as if to explain his early success.

Residing in nearby Oakland, NJ, Sean completed an associate's degree from the County College of Morris and then a bachelor's in Turf Management from Delaware Valley. Even with little exposure to turf care prior to an internship at Manasquan River Golf Club, Sean said he knew that he wanted to work outdoors and found golf course work the most appealing alternative. Now, with close to a year working in the trenches, and having experienced the inner workings of The Barclay's as a volunteer, Sean says his job is nothing short of a pleasure. "I couldn't be happier with my career choice," he says.

For Sean, the outdoors is more than just a

place to work, it's a way of life. When away from the course, Sean enjoys riding ATVs and dirt bikes, hunting and fishing, or playing ice hockey, where he competes in local leagues.

Enjoying time with family, friends, and his girlfriend of two years, helps Sean reset after a day on the course, but then he admits, "There's nothing better than that early time in the morning, the quiet before the storm, getting ready for a busy day." The golf bug has bitten him.

About Steve Benally

Steve Benally is the newest assistant at Upper Montclair Country Club, but he brings with him a healthy list of prior experience. A 2013 Rutgers graduate, Steve has traveled from coast to coast, working at multiple courses in Utah, California, and Philadelphia while volunteering at events on the Nike Tour, Web.com tour, and The Barclay's on the PGA Tour.

Four months ago, he accepted his current position at Upper Montclair. "I wanted to learn from one of the best in the business, in an area that has the best golf courses in the world," says Steve about his move to Upper Montclair.

Steve is an avid golfer and has been from an early age. "I golf, therefore I am," he says with a smile. So it's no surprise that he turned his passion for the game into his profession. Though he didn't grow up managing golf course turf, he did work in his family's garden as a youngster. "I watched as my grandfather was able to feed my family with a farm he managed," says Steve, with great admiration.

Inheriting his grandfather's work ethic

and strong sense of accomplishment, Steve, not surprisingly, selected a trade that gives him not only a tremendous sense of accomplishment, but also great pride and pleasure. "My vocation is my vacation," says Steve, "and I'm happy to have the opportunity to live life enjoying my work."

When not on the course, Steve happily spends time with his family and girlfriend. Right there behind his passion for golf are traveling and skiing at various slopes across the country.

The Super Behind the Assistants Championship

Upper Montclair Country Club Superintendent Mike Brunelle couldn't have been more pleased to host this year's Assistants Championship. "It's important to support the people who support you," says Mike, now in his eighth season at Upper Montclair.

Mike started his journey into the turf-grass business at 13, when he began working on the crew at a small course just outside his hometown of Southampton, MA. After watching his cousin play in the 1993 U.S. Amateur at Champions Golf Club in Houston, TX, Mike was so impressed by the course conditions that he could see, for the first time, the golf course maintenance industry as a potential career instead of just a summer job. His cousin was working mornings at The Orchards Golf Club in South Hadley, MA and helped Mike secure a position on the grounds crew. Though Mike will tell you that at that point he was "hooked" on the game and the industry, another sport was calling to him: baseball.

After graduating high school, Mike opted to attend St. Michael's College just outside Burlington, VT, to play baseball while pursuing a degree in business management.

After his first year of college, however, he realized his chances of playing professional ball were slim. So Mike, once again, set his sights on golf course management and transferred to UMass where he entered into the turfgrass management program.

While completing his studies, he interned at Elmwood Country Club, Wykagyl Country Club, and Oakland Hills Country Club in Michigan.

Following his graduation from UMass in 2001, Mike spent eight months in Florida growing in the Old Collier Golf Club, an all-paspalum course in Naples. His return to the Met area started as a second assistant to then Superintendent Steve Renzetti at Quaker Ridge, followed by four years under Bedford Golf & Tennis Super Bob Nielsen.

Mike's desire to take a lead role brought him to Trump National Bedminster, where he accepted the position of Old Course superintendent under then director of grounds Greg Nicoll. "Greg threw me the keys to the operation," says Mike, "while he focused on dealing with the administration of the business, the construction of the 'New Course,' and the membership."

After Mike had been at Trump Bedminster for six months, Greg decided to leave the industry, which gave Mike a chance to advance. "I knew they were lining up other candidates," says Mike, "but with the support of Greg, the general manager, and the director of golf, I spoke with Mr. Trump. He outlined what he expected of me and of the golf course, and offered me the position of director of grounds."

Over the next two years, while expanding the 18-hole facility to 36, Mike learned the ins and outs of the business and working within an organization. So it's no surprise

that when the superintendent's position became available in 2009 at Upper Montclair, Mike was hired for the job. "This was the best move I could have made," says Mike. "The membership is very supportive, both on and off the course."

In his eight seasons with the club, they have completed a master plan restoration, the installation of a new irrigation system, constructed a new maintenance facility, and have ongoing drainage projects to keep moving in the right direction. Mike has the trust of the membership, and has built a strong team around him, which enables him to enjoy time with wife Jenni, 3-year-old daughter, Gracie, and 11-month-old son, Tedy.

"I focus on managing my three assistants, and they manage the crew," says Mike, a strong proponent of enabling his assistants to learn by doing. "I've worked with my senior assistant, Kyle Zarnetski, long enough, that I'll often throw him the keys, as was once done for me," adds Mike. "Steve and Sean are great and are quickly learning the system, but Kyle often knows what I'm thinking and addresses problems on the course before I even mention them."

"Having kids has changed the game; it's not just about me anymore," adds Mike. "And having Kyle on board allows me to have a family life."

Mike enjoys touring the course with his kids and enjoying the work that his team has accomplished. "Members will often come over to say hello and ask, 'Why don't you get out of here and take the day to spend time with your family? Don't you have guys to cover this?' And I'm fortunate enough to be able to say, 'Yes, as a matter of fact, I do.'"

Tom Reyes, a member of the Tee to Green Editorial Committee, is an assistant superintendent at Century Country Club in Purchase, NY.

MetGCSA Triumphs in Battle of the Bridges

by Dave Parson

The Annual Assistants Championship was held on November 1 at Upper Montclair Country Club in Clifton, NJ. Dubbed the Battle of the Bridges, this year's competition attracted 102 assistants, who enjoyed a much-needed break from the daily grind.

The clubhouse staff provided a perfect start to the day with a delicious, first-class breakfast, and Superintendent Mike Brunelle and Assistant Superintendents Kyle Zarnetski, Sean Blatz, and Steve Benally set the stage for a great day of golf with a meticulously groomed course and fast and true greens.

Congratulations to the MetGCSA team, who triumphed in the "battle" and took the cup home to New York.

Many thanks, again, to the entire Upper Montclair staff for their contributions in making this an event to remember.

Here are the day's results:

MetGCSA

Team Net ~ 366
Team Gross ~ 414
Team Total ~ 780

GCSA New Jersey

Team Net ~ 402
Team Gross ~ 411
Team Total ~ 813

Low Gross Winners

77 Freddy Carmona, Stanton Ridge Golf & CC
79 Mike Guinan, Blind Brook Club
81 Justin Adams, Ridgewood CC
81 Kelly Barrell, Quaker Ridge GC

Low Net Winners

70 Chris Steffen, Tamarack CC
71 Justin Adams, Ridgewood CC
71 Tom Reyes, Century CC

Dave Parson is the MetGCSA's Class C rep and assistant superintendent at The Apawamis Club in Rye, NY.



The MetGCSA team takes home the trophy in the Battle of the Bridges.

Upcoming Events

MetGCSA's Annual Christmas Party Adds a New Twist

WHEN? Thursday, December 8, 1–4 p.m.

WHERE? Bonnie Briar Country Club

Larchmont, NY

Host: Nick Lerner

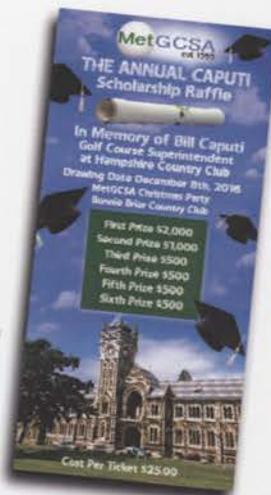
Come party this year in the daylight hours with fellow members and guests at our annual Christmas Party. This year's holiday celebration will be held from 1 to 4 p.m. at Bonnie Briar Country Club in Larchmont, NY. Feel free to invite employees, family, and friends to join the festivities and cocktail party atmosphere that will include great food, an open bar, and the opportunity to ring in the holiday season with friends old and new. Mark your calendars and gather your guest list. The more the merrier!



Get Your Tickets Now for the Bill Caputi Scholarship Raffle

Now's the time to get your tickets for the Annual Bill Caputi Scholarship Raffle! Established in memory of Hampshire Country Club Superintendent Bill Caputi, this raffle raises money for our education scholarships, awarded every year to deserving students of MetGCSA members or family members.

Tickets are \$25, and raffle prizes will be awarded December 8 at the Met Christmas Party at Bonnie Briar. We thank everyone for your support!



Educational Events

MetGCSA/CAGCS Fall Seminar

Thursday, November 17

The Patterson Club

Fairfield, CT

Host: Jason Meersman

Join fellow golf industry professionals at this informative educational session cosponsored by the MetGCSA and Connecticut AGCS. Here's a look at the Fall Seminar speakers and their topics:

- **Weed Control in Low Maintenance Roughs and Natural Areas on Golf Courses**

Dr. Jared Hoyle, Kansas State University

- **The Stress of 2016: How to Prevent Future Turf Loss**

Dr. Nathaniel Mitkoski, University of Rhode Island

- **The Science Behind Turf Growth Regulation and GDD Modeling**

Richard Fletcher, Technical Service Manager, Nufarm Turf and Ornamentals

- **Don't Get Them Angry: Avoiding and Managing Insecticide Resistance in ABW**

Dr. Albrecht Koppenhofer, Rutgers University

- **Newer Strategies to Combat Nematodes and Root Rot**

Dr. Derek Settle, Bayer

For further information, contact our Education Chair, Brett Chapin, at 203-938-9640.

Turf & Grounds Exposition

Wednesday – Thursday, November 16 – 17

Rochester Riverside Convention Center
Rochester, NY

The Turf & Grounds Exposition offers an excellent opportunity to network while remaining 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.

Long Island Regional Conference

Thursday, December 1

Upsky Long Island Hotel
Hauppauge, NY

The Long Island Regional Conference offers a variety of educational sessions with leading turfgrass educators and industry

professionals. For further information, visit www.nysta.org or contact the NYSTA office at 800-873-8873 or 518-783-1229.

2016 GREEN EXPO Turf & Landscape Conference

Tuesday – Thursday, December 6 – 8

The Borgata Hotel & Casino
Atlantic City, NJ

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

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

MetGCSA Winter Seminar

Wednesday, January 18, 2017

Westchester Country Club
Rye, NY

Host: David Dudones

For further information, contact our Education Chair, Brett Chapin, at 203-938-9640.

2016 MetGCSA Summer Social

Good Food, Good Fun at Orienta Beach Club



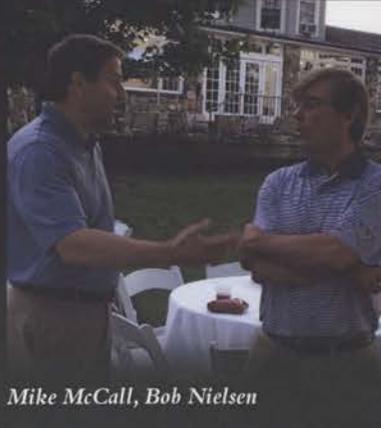
Samson Bailey & Greg Wojick



Brett Chapin & David Dudones



Karen Bontemps, Alicia Shannon,
Bob Alonzi, Jesse Shannon



Mike McCall, Bob Nielsen



Birdie & Peter Rappoccio, Kim Alonzi,
Mike & Anne Maffei, Judy Alonzi



Lorah Perlee, Glenn Perry &
Heidi Ryan



Josh & Stacey Haugh, Steven & Margie McGlone,
Meighan & Dave Parson, David Hardin

Aaron Crouse, Mike Imoberstag, Chase LaCourse, Ben Ledgard,
Cait & Vinny Barnaba, JR LaPan, Steven Bigelow



Kim Kadi, Ken & Yve Gentile,
Sam Kadi



Patron Directory

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

- ★ **A.G. Enterprises**
Rick Gordon ~ Staff Uniforms
201-488-1276 / Fax: 201-489-5830
merrick160@gmail.com
www.AGEnterprisesonline.com
- ★ **All Pro Horticulture, Inc.**
John Seib
80 East Gates Avenue
Lindenhurst, NY 11757
631-789-6680 / Fax: 631-789-5711
john@allprohort.com
- ★ **Aquatrols Corp. of America**
1273 Imperial Way
Paulsboro, NJ 08066
Kevin Collins, NE & Mid-Atlantic Territory Mgr.
609-841-2077
kcollins@Aquatrols.com
- ★ **Argento & Sons, Inc.**
Louis Argento
1 Prospect Avenue
White Plains, NY 10607
914-949-1152 / Fax: 914-948-0255
louis@argentoandsons.com
- ★ **Atlantic Golf & Turf**
9 Industrial Boulevard
Turner Falls, MA 01376
John Garcia: 203-996-6267
jngarc@gmail.com
- ★ **BASF**
"We Create Chemistry"
Peter Jacobson: 919-530-9062
peter.jacobson@basf.com
- ★ **Bayer Environmental Science**
"Backed by Bayer"
Dave Sylvester: 860-841-3173
- ★ **Blue Ridge Peat Farms**
133 Peat Moss Road
White Haven, PA 18661
Gene Evans / Chuck Evans
570-443-9596 / 570-947-5888
- ★ **Cushman / E-Z-GO**
Nick Roberto: 845-637-7641
nroberto@textron.com
Marc Santospirito: 516-662-3554
- ★ **Custom Golf**
Golf Course Materials
Michael Giacini: 631-433-4494
nmgiacini@verizon.net
- ★ **DeLea Sod Farms**
Bentgrass, Fescue, Bluegrass Sod, & U.S. Silica Topdressing
Scott Geiser: 800-344-7637
sgeiser@deleasod.com
- ★ **Double 'D' Turf, LLC**
Drill & Fill Specialist
Dennis DeSanctis Sr.: 732-241-7378
dennis@doubleDturf.com
- ★ **Emerald Tree & Shrub Care Company**
26 Fox Meadow Road
Scarsdale, NY 10583
Steve Farrelly: 914-725-0441
Kevin Wyatt: 203-422-2441
William Demarest: 914-725-0441
- ★ **Evergreen Organic Recycling**
1160 Mamaroneck Avenue
White Plains, NY 10605
James Amodio / Raymond Colasacco
914-949-9030
Ray@EvergreenOrganicRecycling.com
- ★ **Executive Turf Products**
92 Vine Road, Stamford, CT 06905
Ken Gentile: 203-496-0891
executiveturfproducts@gmail.com
humagroturf.com
- ★ **Fisher and Son Company**
"Green Industry Supplier Since 1928"
Mike Weber: 347-486-0480
mweber@fisherandson.com
- ★ **Golf Preservations, Inc.**
504 Gloucester Avenue
Middlesboro, KY 40965
Samson Bailey, CEO
Jessica Teaney, Business Admin
609-248-7453 / Fax: 606-896-8006
golfpreservations@yahoo.com
- ★ **Grass Roots Turf Products, Inc.**
"Serving Turfgrass Professionals Since 1978"
Ryan Batz / Keith Kubik
Ofc: 973-252-6634
www.GRturf.com / sales@GRturf.com
- ★ **Growth Products, LTD**
Fertilizers, Organics, & Fungicide Products
80 Lafayette Avenue
White Plains, NY 10603
Howie Gold: 917-559-4425
Ofc: 800-648-7626
hgold@growthproducts.com
- ★ **Harrell's**
"Growing a Better World. Partners for Success"
Scott Tretera: 914-262-8638
stretera@harrells.com / www.harrells.com
- ★ **LaBar Golf Renovations**
170 Mount Airy Road, Suite A1
Basking Ridge, NJ 07920
Rich LaBar: 908-502-5253
rich@labargolf.com
- ★ **LaCorte Equipment ~ John Deere Golf**
"Premier John Deere Golf Distributor in the Northeast"
Eric Berg / Jeff Sutphen / Jim Calladio
800-560-3373 / Fax: 631-591-3447
golfparts@LaCorteEquipment.com
www.LaCorteEquipment.com
- ★ **Leggette, Brashears & Graham, Inc.**
Hydrogeologic Consulting & Environmental Engineering Services
Rob Good: 860-678-0404
rgood@lbget.com
- ★ **Mark Eliot Design, LLC**
Mark Sosnowitz, ASLA, MG
914-318-4476
msosnowitz@aol.com
- ★ **Metro Turf Specialists**
Proudly Celebrating 50 Years in Business
"Customers, Our TOP Priority"
Scott / Todd / Rich / Matt / Jake
203-748-GOLF (4653)
www.metroturfspecialists.com
- ★ **Pinnacle Turf, Inc.**
40 Skyview Lane
New Rochelle, NY 10804
Steven Renzetti, CGCS
914-384-9227
srenzetti@verizon.net
www.PinnacleTurf.net
- ★ **Plant Food Company, Inc.**
"The Liquid Fertilizer Experts"
Tom Weinert: 914-262-0111
Dick Neufeld: 973-945-6318
Tom Pepe: 609-751-1372
David Conrad: 914-263-3244
- ★ **Playbooks for Golf**
Mobile Coverage System, Golf Course Field Guides, ezPins, Consulting, Career Development, Professional Search Services
Greg Wojick: 203-219-0254
Matt Leverich: 913-221-8052
www.goplaybooks.com
- ★ **Saturated Solutions ~ US Pitchcare**
"Simplifying Cultural"
18 Evergreen Road
Northford, CT 06472
Paul Boyd Jr.: 203-219-7459
saturatedservices@gmail.com
- ★ **Seeton Turf Warehouse, LLC**
Brian Bontemps: 845-239-7959
Brian Gjelsvik: 973-670-7139
Zach Brooks: 914-309-2373
Bill Cimochowski: 609-923-4045
- ★ **SiteOne Landscape Supply**
5 Leo Lane, New Windsor, NY 12553
Chad Mathieu: 914-539-5675
cmathieu@siteone.com
- ★ **Soil Solutions, LLC ~ Aeration Professionals**
7 Whittemore Place
Ryebrook, NY 10573
914-393-0659 / Fax: 914-939-5010
- ★ **Steven Willand, Inc.**
"Quality Turf Equipment"
4 Production Drive
Brookfield, CT 06804
George Corgan: 914-213-3622
georgecorgan@stevenwillandinc.com
www.StevenWillandInc.com
- ★ **Synergy Turf Supply**
"Agronomic Professionals"
Bobby Steinman, CGCS: 860-488-2822
bobby7777@aol.com
Ernie Steinhofner, CGCS: 860-488-0533
ejsturfinc@gmail.com
- ★ **Syngenta**
Manufacturer of Plant Protection Products
24 Forest Street, Burnt Hills, NY 12077
Brian Goudey: 518-764-2412
brian.goudey@syngenta.com
- ★ **Tanto Irrigation, LLC**
"Golf Course Irrigation Specialists"
Steve Kubicki / Jeff Gennerelli
info@tantoirrigation.com
- ★ **The Cardinals, Inc.**
Complete Distributor of Golf Course Accessories & Turf Maintenance Supplies
John Callahan: 800-861-6256
Fax: 860-673-8443
- ★ **The Care of Trees**
Mike Cook: 914-345-8733
Jeremiah Green: 914-241-8110
Ken Clear: 203-863-0900
Greg Gutter: 914-241-8110
- ★ **The Terre Company of New Jersey, Inc.**
Seed, Pesticides, Nursery Stock, & Fertilizer
Byron Johnson: 973-473-3393
jimitovski@terrecompany.com
- ★ **Tom Irwin Inc.**
"With Tom Irwin, You Are Not Alone"
13 A Street, Burlington, MA 01803
Jeff Houde: 203-731-1776
800-582-5959
jeff@tomirwin.com
- ★ **Turf Products LLC ~ TORO**
Irrigation & Equipment
"Servicing Our Customers Since 1970"
Pat Cragin: 860-874-2812
Bill Conley: 860-360-0503
Dave Dynowski: 860-490-9396
Shawn Donovan: 203-910-9114
Peter Hull: 860-305-2525
- ★ **Valley Green, Inc.**
205 Wilson Avenue
Norwalk, CT 06854
Greg Moran
Cell: 845-901-1358
Ofc: 203-831-9748
g.moran@valleygreenusa.com
- ★ **Valley View Wholesale Greenhouses**
229 Smith Ridge Road
South Salem, NY 10590
Frank Amodio: vvggh@aol.com
Kevin Amodio
kevin.vvgh@yahoo.com
914-533-2526
- ★ **Westchester Tractor, Inc.**
60 International Boulevard
Brewster, NY 10509
John Apple / Charlie Siemers
845-278-7766
www.wtractor.com
- ★ **Westchester Turf Supply, Inc.**
"Serving the MetGCSA for 40 Years"
Bob Lippman: 914-447-6257
Dave Lippman: 914-447-5192
info@westchesterturf.com
- ★ **Wickes Arborists**
11 McNamara Road
Spring Valley, NY 10977
John Wickes: 914-906-3264
Ofc: 845-354-3400
- ★ **Wilfred MacDonald, Inc.**
"Turf Equipment Specialists"
South Hackensack, NJ 07606
Glenn Gallion: 201-954-5878
888-831-0891 / Fax: 201-931-1730
ggwilmac@aol.com
- ★ **Winfield Solutions, Inc.**
"Service, Solutions, Insight"
Rob Saunders: 203-249-5059
rssaunders@landolakes.com
www.winfieldpro.com

Thank You to Our Major Sponsors for Their Support

Ace Sponsors



Double Eagle Sponsors

