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# Tee To Green

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MetGCSA  
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# Tee to Green



Cover: Trump Golf Links at Ferry Point

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# President's Message

## The Growing Challenges of a New Season

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SEARCH

# W

ith the arrival of spring, I've been more than busy getting Westchester and the MetGCSA off to a good start. With the mild winter, I'm pleased to say I haven't heard of any ice or crown hydration damage to *Poa* greens in our area. This is a far better way to start the season than in previous years. Finally, we are all able to focus our efforts on the many springtime priorities we have in readying our courses for a new season of play!

### The Hard Work of Hiring

One of the greatest challenges many of us seem to be having as we're gearing up for the season is finding new hires who are a good fit for our clubs. In fact, whether we are looking for assistants or laborers, it seems to be getting increasingly difficult every year—particularly with the decreasing number of students enrolling in turf programs. Making a tough situation all the more difficult is the fact that minimum wage is going up a dollar a year in the Westchester area until it reaches \$15 per hour in 2022. It will undoubtedly tax our budgets, and worse, potentially prevent us from hiring the staff we need to maintain our course.

On a personal note, I am not looking forward to the difficult task of hiring and training new employees to replace two of Westchester's valued veterans. At 86 years old, Sam Manca, a valued crew member at Westchester for the past 18 years, is retiring. He came to Westchester after retiring from his first career as an A&P butcher!

Adolf Garcia, who has maintained our tennis courts for 47 years, is also stepping down this year. I would like to thank both these gentlemen for their dedicated service to WCC. Employees with this level of experience and commitment are the backbone of many Met-area clubs and will be time-consuming—and costly—to replace.

In a time where our springs can't possibly get much busier, personnel management could be one of our biggest challenges.

### On the Positive Side . . .

Good weather in the first week of April always produces the Augusta effect at our clubs and gets the rounds and revenue off to a

David Dudones  
MetGCSA President



strong start. The MetGCSA is off to a good start as well. It was great to see 82 players attend the Dave Mahoney Two-Ball Qualifier at Shorehaven Golf Club. Numbers were up from the past few years, and Ryan Segrue did an excellent job as host superintendent. Our Superintendent/Guest Tournament attracted another nice turnout with Superintendent Jason Meersman and The Patterson Club going out of their way to make the day special. All-in-all, great conditions, beautiful weather, and two courses many of us have not played before, made these events all the more enjoyable.

Other positive news for the Met is that Foursomes for the Foundation went live on Charity Buzz on April 18. In one day, more than \$20,000 was bid with many days left for numbers to increase even further. Other courses went out to bid on GCSAA's Rounds for Research beginning on May 1.

If we continue to have this level of success with these programs, we will be very close to reaching our goal of, once again, adding principal to our restricted accounts. This is a great step forward for the Met, thanks to the generosity of the participating area clubs and superintendents.

Executive Director Mike McCall and Education Chair Brian Chapin have gone above and beyond in getting our Foursomes for the Foundation program off the ground and will hopefully use this as our blueprint going forward in raising funds for Scholarship and Research.

With a series of great golf events—and all-new venues—planned for the season, I am hoping to see our attendance numbers continue to increase. Don't wait until the last minute to sign up for our Invitational June 6 at Trump Golf Links at Ferry Point. It should be a sellout!

No matter what the venue, our meetings are always great opportunities to talk turf with our peers and valued sponsors and to pick up information useful in enhancing our maintenance practices and operation.

I'm looking forward to seeing more of you at our great roster of events!

David Dudones  
MetGCSA President



Feature

# Advocacy Day-Goers Tackle Legislative Issues

by Michael Maffei, CGCS

The

18th Annual New York State Turfgrass Advocacy Day was held March 8 at the Empire State Plaza in Albany, NY, with 50 superintendents and other industry professionals eager to discuss this year's priority issues: Support for the Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship Fund, the Adoption of a State Definition of IPM, and Parity for 3A, 3B Pesticide Applicator Fees.

Advocacy Day-goers made 77 legislative visits to drive home the importance of these legislative issues. Joining me in representing the MetGCSA were Ken Benoit, CGCS; Bob Nielsen, CGCS; Matt Ceplo, CGCS; John Carlone, CGCS; Blake Halderman, CGCS; Todd Apgar; and Mike McCall, CGCS.

This year the National Association of Landscape Professionals awarded NYSTA a \$2,500 grant under their new Government Advocacy Partnership Program established to help their state association partners with their Advocacy efforts. NYSTA used a portion of the grant to provide 10 scholarships to help individuals defray travel costs to attend Advocacy Day.

## The Event Kickoff

The event kicked off with an association breakfast and welcoming remarks by NYSTA President Jim Hornung Jr. and NYSTA Government Relations Committee Co-Chair Michael Maffei.

Jeff Williams of the New York Farm Bureau spoke on the legislative climate in Albany and budget issues currently being debated in the Legislature. He also noted that the time was right to meet with legislators since they were in the midst of final budget negotiations.

Commissioner Richard Ball of the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets welcomed everyone to Albany and outlined what his department is doing to enhance the agricultural and horticultural industries in New York State.

Next, Todd Vandervort, representing the New York Alliance for Environmental Concerns, offered attendees tips on how to make the most of their legislative visits.

Provided in the attendee packets this year was a fact sheet on other New York State



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budget items supported by NYSTA. These included funding for:

- the Pesticide Management Education Program at Cornell
- ongoing work on a Pollinator Protection Plan
- the development of an Urban Landscapes Management Plan, which would be modeled after the golf course BMPs

Rick Zimmerman, also representing the New York Alliance for Environmental Concerns, gave an overview of these budget issues and urged attendees to work these issues into their conversations with legislators.

## The Issues of the Day

Next, industry leaders spoke to attendees about the following issues:

### Garnering Support for the Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship Fund

*Greg Chorvas, Past President of the New York State Turfgrass Association*

Greg spoke about the status and importance of the Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship Fund, reporting that it was our Number One issue for the day. The 2015-2016 New York State Budget included a \$150,000 appropriation to support research that provides improved turf management solutions.

Continuing research is essential in providing turf management solutions that are key in preserving and protecting environmental quality. With this in mind, **NYSTA recom-**

*GlenArbor Superintendent and BMP Committee Chair Ken Benoit discusses importance of supporting the ongoing development of the BMPs for New York State golf courses.*



*NYSTA President Jim Hornung Jr. welcomes superintendents and other industry professionals to the 18th Annual Advocacy Day event.*

**mended that legislators fund a \$200,000 line item** in the 2017-2018 budget.

In 2016, \$23,500 of this funding went toward supporting the ongoing development of the BMPs for New York State Golf Courses. GlenArbor Superintendent Ken Benoit detailed the completion of the Strategic Plan, the Educational Plan, and the production of a Pollinator Educational Video.

In addition to focusing their discussions on the issues of the day, attendees were encouraged to present the BMP concept to legislators during each of their visits.

### Adopting a State Definition of IPM

*Michael Maffei, CGCS, New York State Turfgrass Association*

Mike reviewed the Adoption of a State Definition of IPM, stating that NYSTA believes New York State would be best served by adopting the IPM terminology recognized by the Food Quality Protection Act, the National Integrated Pest Management Network, and the Empire State Council of Agricultural Organizations. Several legislative proposals define IPM as using pesticides as a last resort. As we all know, pesticides are used as a tool in an IPM program.

**NYSTA supports bills S524 (introduced by Senator Young) and A526 (introduced by Assemblywoman Gunther),** which define integrated pest management as a "systematic approach to managing pests that utilizes a diversity of management options to minimize health, environmental,

and economic risks and impacts. These options may include biological, cultural, physical, and chemical tools to prevent pest infestations or reduce them to acceptable levels."

Both Senator Young's and Assemblywoman Gunther's bills are currently in their respective Environmental Conservation committees.

### Parity for 3A, 3B Certified Applicator Fees

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

Larry explained that currently 3A, 3B certified commercial pesticide applicators pay \$200 per year (\$600 over three years) and have an annual certification period. By contrast, the other 25 classifications pay \$450 every three years and have a three-year certification period.

**NYSTA is requesting parity within the certified commercial system by lowering the annual 3A and 3B fees to \$150 per year and realigning the certification time period from one to three years.** NYSTA, therefore, sup-

*Back O' Beyond Super and NYSTA Government Relations Co-Chair Mike Maffei reviews the Adoption of a State Definition of IPM.*



*"Without our industry's presence at the Turfgrass Lobby Day, the Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship Fund and other programs, such as Integrated Pest Management, would not be recognized by legislators as critical programs worthy of continued state support."*

— Rick Zimmerman

ports bills S1045 (introduced by Senator Funke) and A1630 (introduced by Assemblyman Skoufis).

## The Legislative Visits and Closing Activities

With the various presentations complete, attendees had the opportunity to meet with legislators and share their views and recommendations on the issues. After the legislative visits were completed, attendees returned for a luncheon and wrap-up of the morning's activities. Attendees also had the opportunity to share any feedback they received during their legislator visits with Rick Zimmerman for follow-up.

"The annual New York State Turfgrass Association Lobby Day is a critical part of effective advocacy on behalf of the turfgrass industry," says Rick Zimmerman, lobbyist for the New York Alliance for Environmental Concerns. "As I often say, 'Government is run by those who show up.' This statement is particularly true when it comes to affirming support for industry programs," continues Zimmerman. "Without our industry's presence at the Turfgrass Lobby Day, the Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship Fund and other programs, such as Integrated Pest Management, would not be recognized by legislators as critical programs worthy of continued state support. Many thanks to those who spend the time and resources to advocate for their industry."

## The Benefits of Being Involved

If you are not a member of NYSTA, please consider joining. Your membership provides NYSTA with the resources needed to plan and implement many informative industry-related events, not the least of which is our annual Turfgrass Advocacy Day. Particularly important to preserving our livelihood, the Advocacy Day is designed to:

- Protect you and your golf course from losing the tools needed to perform your job
- Prevent any onerous new regulations from adversely affecting our industry
- Advocate for changes to—or the repeal of—laws and regulations that affect our clubs

If you would like more information on NYSTA or the New York State Turfgrass Advocacy Day, you will find it on the NYSTA website: [www.nysta.org](http://www.nysta.org). Though you may not have been able to attend, consider visiting your assembly member or senator in their district offices or writing them to discuss these issues.

Please give serious consideration to attending the Turfgrass Advocacy Day in 2018. Laws and regulations affect everyone, and your input is important!

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

## Special Thanks to Our Sponsors

We would like to acknowledge the following sponsors who helped make this successful event possible: the Metropolitan Golf Course Superintendents Association, the Hudson Valley Golf Course Superintendents Association, the Northeastern Golf Course Superintendents Association, the Central New York Golf Course Superintendents Association, the Long Island Golf Course Superintendents

Association, the Nassau Suffolk Landscape Gardeners Association, the National Association of Landscape Professionals, RISE (Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment), Helena, Dow AgroSciences, TruGreen, Syngenta, Bayer, Five Star Golf Cars & Utility Vehicles, Funk Lawn Care, Lawn Dawg Inc., SavaLawn/SavATree, and the Steve Smith Memorial NYSTA Challenge.

## Member News

### New Members

Please join us in welcoming the following new MetGCSA members:

- **Michael McKeel**, Class C, Innis Arden Golf Club, Old Greenwich, CT
- **Marc Muniz**, Class C, Century Country Club, Purchase, NY
- **Jonathan Heywood**, Class A, Morris County Golf Club, Morristown, NJ

### Members on the Move

- **George Chavez** is the new superintendent at Pelham Bay/Split Rock Golf Course in Bronx, NY. Previous position: Assistant superintendent at Pelham Country Club in Pelham Manor, NY.
- **Greg Eisner** is the new superintendent at Fieldstone Golf Club in Greenville, DE. Previous position: Superintendent at Trump Golf Links at Ferry Point in Bronx, NY.
- **Noah McCahill** is the new superintendent at Trump Golf Links at Ferry Point in Bronx, NY. Previous position: Assistant superintendent at Trump Golf Links at Ferry Point.
- **Brian O'Malley** is the new superintendent at Blue Hill Golf Course in Pearl River, NY. Previous position: Assistant superintendent at Sleepy Hollow Country Club in Scarborough, NY.
- **Dave Parson** is the new superintendent at The Orchards Golf Club in South Hadley, MA. Previous position: Assistant superintendent at the Whippoorwill Club in Armonk, NY.
- **Ray Platt** is the new superintendent at Penobscot Valley Country Club in Orono, ME. Previous position: Assistant superintendent at Fairview Country Club in Greenwich, CT.

### Newly Certified

Congratulations to **Jesse Shannon** of Manhattan Woods Golf Club in West Nyack, NY, for completing the coursework required to become a certified golf course superintendent (CGCS) with GCSAA.

### Well Wishes

Ridgewood Country Club Superintendent Dave Kerr's son, Charlie, was severely injured after a serious motorcycle accident mid-April. Please join us in wishing Charlie a speedy recovery.

### In Sympathy

We would like to offer our sincere condolences to Scarsdale Golf Club Superintendent **Matt Severino** and his family. Matt's father, Matthew L. Severino, passed away March 20. He was 85.

# MGA Green Chairman Education Series Sheds Light on Intricacies of Golf Course Management

The MGA Foundation hosted its annual Green Chairman Education Series at Old Westbury Golf & Country Club on March 14. Yet another success, this year's event drew Met Area golf course superintendents, professionals, green chairmen, and club officials who enjoyed presentations from industry professionals—many of them MetGCSA members—in the fields of golf course management, maintenance, and agronomy.

As always, one of the highlights of the event was the awards luncheon, which honors an MGA member club that has demonstrated environmental stewardship through golf course maintenance, construction, education, and research.

This year's Arthur P. Weber MGA Club Environmental Leaders in Golf Award went to a club outside the MetGCSA: Newton Country Club in Newton, NJ. Superintendent Les Carpenter was there to accept the award, which recognized the club for its significant reduction in pesticide use and energy consumption.

This year's seminar featured the following presentations:

### **Adam Moeller, Director, USGA Green Section Education**

#### ***Bunkers: The Most Expensive Hazard on the Course***

Adam Moeller gave an overview on the maintenance costs of bunker playability and controllable ways to impact their consistency. In particular, he discussed the importance of proper construction methods, draining, raking techniques, and sand selection.

### **Jim Skorulski, Senior Agronomist, USGA Green Section**

#### ***When Every Drop Counts: Opportunities to Conserve and Improve Water Efficiency***

Jim Skorulski's presentation emphasized the importance of water conservation and how clubs could save water and money by improving irrigation efficiency. Among the most effective methods were modernizing a system's design, upgrading piping, and installing new sprinkler heads.

### **Tony Girardi, CGCS, Superintendent, Rockrimmon Country Club**

A past MetGCSA president and current Tri-State Turfgrass Research Foundation President Tony Girardi gave an update on recent turfgrass research projects conducted by local universities and a variety of other research partners, such as the GCSAA and the New Jersey Turfgrass Foundation.

### **Ken Benoit, CGCS, Superintendent, GlenArbor Golf Club**

MetGCSA Vice President and New York State BMP Committee Chair Ken Benoit provided an update on the development of Best Management Practices for New York State golf courses.

### **Stephen Rabideau, CGCS, Superintendent, Winged Foot Golf Club**

#### ***Winged Foot Restoration Project: Using Greenscan3D Laser Mapping to Rebuild Greens to USGA Guidelines While Preserving Their Original Size, Shape, and Contours***

MetGCSA member Stephen Rabideau provided an inside look at how Winged Foot's use of 3D mapping allowed the club to transform their classic, soil-based greens to modern USGA greens. The rebuilding process resulted in enhanced playability and improved performance of the putting surfaces.

### **Dave Oatis, Director, Northeast Region, USGA Green Section**

#### ***The Lightning Round: New Tools, Programs, and Ideas That You Can Use to Improve Your Course and Conserve Resources***

Dave Oatis covered a variety of topics in his presentation, including the use of GPS tracking technology to understand golfer traffic and how to calculate the best aeration date. He also introduced the USGA's new Resource Management tool that allows superintendents to monitor the use of water, fuel, and labor.

## **The Award Revisited**

For the uninitiated, the Arthur P. Weber Award is named in honor of past MGA



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

Past recipients of the award include The Whippoorwill Club (2016), Neshanic Valley Golf Course (2015), Manhattan Woods Golf Club (2014), Wee Burn Country Club (2013), Rockland Country Club (2012), the Round Hill Club (2011), GlenArbor Golf Club (2010), Westchester Country Club (2009), Sebonack Golf Club (2008), and Trump National Golf Club ~ Bedminster (2007).

If you missed this year's seminar, be sure to schedule time in to attend next year. There's always an outstanding lineup of speakers and, we can't forget, the opportunity to showcase your course's environmental efforts with an application for the Arthur P. Weber Environmental Leaders in Golf Award.

We hope to see you in 2018!

# Maynard Elected 81st President of GCSAA

*Members Elect New Board, Approve Dues Increase at Annual Meeting*

**B**ill Maynard, CGCS, director of golf course maintenance operations at Country Club of St. Albans, MO, became GCSAA's 81st president at the association's Annual Meeting held February 9 at the Golf Industry Show in Orlando, FL.

A 30-year member of GCSAA, Maynard has served on the association's board of directors since 2010. He is also a member of the Mississippi Valley GCSA and a past president of the Heart of America GCSA, in addition to a former board member of the Carolinas GCSA.

"This association needs us to need each other," said Maynard of fellow golf industry professionals, adding that the person one encourages to become an active participant in association matters may someday end up at the helm of the whole operation. That was the case for Maynard, himself, who was spurred into service by those who mentored him early in his career.

A native of Nashville, TN, Maynard earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Tennessee in 1986. He was previously the superintendent at Milburn Golf & Country Club in Overland Park, KS; Champion Hills Club in Hendersonville, NC; and The Virginian Golf Club in Bristol, VA.

Maynard succeeds past president Peter Grass, who served as GCSAA president in 2016. Grass will continue on the board as immediate past president.

## GCSAA Board of Directors at a Glance

### President

Bill H. Maynard, CGCS, director of golf course maintenance operations at Country Club of St. Albans, MO

### Vice President

Darren J. Davis, CGCS, superintendent at Olde Florida Golf Club, Naples, FL

### Secretary/Treasurer

Rafael Barajas, CGCS, director of golf course operations at Boca Grove Plantation Golf & Tennis Club, Boca Raton, FL



**Bill Maynard, CGCS**  
**GCSAA President**

### Director

- John R. Fulling Jr., CGCS, grounds and facilities manager at Kalamazoo (MI) Country Club
- Mark F. Jordan, CGCS, natural resources leader at Westfield Group Country Club, Westfield Center, OH
- John Walker, director of golf course maintenance at Bentwater Yacht and Country Club, Montgomery, TX
- Kevin P. Sunderman, grounds director at Isla Del Sol Yacht & Country Club, St. Petersburg, FL
- Kevin P. Breen, CGCS, superintendent at La Rinconada Country Club, Los Gatos, CA

### Immediate Past President

Peter J. Grass, CGCS, golf course superintendent at Hilands Golf Club in Billings, MT

John J. O'Keefe, CGCS, director of golf course management at Preakness Hills Country, retires from the board after serving the last year as immediate past president.

## Other News

During the Annual Meeting, members passed a proposed increase in dues from \$375 per year to \$380 for Class A and B members, and from \$190 per year to \$195 for Class C members. They also approved a change to the bylaws that removed the reference to "golf industry" from the definition of an equipment manager.

# MetGCSA Members Grin at National Championship

*by Steve Loughran*

**W**hen the calendar turns to January, that means it's time for MetGCSA members to dust off their clubs and get ready to participate in one or more of the National Championship and Golf Classic tournaments.

This year, Orlando played host to 460 participants competing in 26 Net and Gross GCSAA Tournaments. Many MetGCSA members took advantage of the mild winter and worked on their games, producing a number of highly respectable finishes.

## GCSAA National Championship

The National Championship was played at a pair of very difficult, but fair courses. Panther Lake at Orange County National and Grande Lakes at The Ritz-Carlton. Out of the strong field of 85 competitors, Michael Stieler from Spring Creek Golf & Country Club in Ripon, CA, put on a display of steady play to take home the title. Stieler carded back-to-back rounds of one over par and had an even-par back nine in the final round to secure the trophy for the second time.

The competition was too tough for the MetGCSA participants, which included Tom Ashfield of Quaker Ridge, Sean Cain of Sunningdale, Steve Loughran of Rock Ridge, and Jason Meersman of The Patterson Club. However, all had respectable finishes in the middle of the field.

## Golf Classic

The Golf Classic took place on Sunday and Monday with the flights playing at different host sites. The sites included Grande Lakes Ritz-Carlton, Orange County National-Crooked Cat and Panther Lake, Celebration Golf Club, and Shingle Creek.

Our MetGCSA participants played hard both days, but just like the National Championship division, it was tough to overcome the lack of playing time over the winter. The most notable finish was by Bob Nielsen of Bedford Golf & Tennis with an eighth-place finish in the Fourth Flight Net Division.

In the Senior Division, James Swiatkowski of Montammy captured Second Place Gross in the Second Flight with an impressive 53 points in the Stableford format. Additionally, Tim O'Neill of Country Club of Darien

## It Out in the

was able to bring home a fifth-place Net finish in the Second Flight. Nice playing gentlemen!

### Team Events

Many of our MetGCSA members teamed up for the **Four-Ball Competition** and placed very well in their respective flights, each finishing in the money. It was a great representation of our Section.

**In the First Flight . . .** The team of John Carlone of Meadow Brook and Les Kennedy of Blind Brook came in a tie for second at -7 in the Net Division.

**In the Second Flight . . .** The teams of David Dudones of Westchester Country Club and James Swiatlowski of Montammy and Blake Halderman of Brae Burn and Jeff Wentworth of Pelham were tied for third in the Net Division at -9.

**In the Third Flight . . .** The team of John Genovesi of Maidstone and his partner Ryan Hanlen won the gross division at +5, and the team of Mike Cook of The Care of Trees and his partner Scott Schukraft won the Net Division with an impressive -12.

In the **Chapter Team event**, two teams represented the MetGCSA. The Net Team was the foursome of Rob Alonzi of Fenway, David Dudones of Westchester, Blake Halderman of Brae Burn, and Bob Nielsen of Bedford Golf & Tennis.

MetGCSA's Gross Team, Tom Ashfield of Quaker Ridge, Sean Cain of Sunningdale, Steve Loughran of Rock Ridge, and Jason Meersman of Patterson. Both teams played well but ended up falling to the middle of the field. The Lone Star GCSA won the Gross Division and the Mississippi Valley GCSA took the Net division.

### There's Always Next Year

If you were not able to take advantage of the warm weather in Orlando, please consider joining in on the fun in San Antonio, TX, next year. It truly is a great competition, filled with camaraderie and invaluable networking opportunities.

*Steve Loughran, our Tournament Committee Chair, is superintendent of Rock Ridge Country Club in Newtown, CT.*

## Upcoming Events

# Mark Your Calendars With These Upcoming MetGCSA and Industry Events

### MetGCSA Invitational Tournament

*Tuesday, June 6*  
Trump Golf Links at Ferry Point, Bronx, NY  
Host: Noah McCahill

### Summer Social

*Monday, July 10*  
Orienta Beach Club, Mamaroneck, NY

### Summer Picnic

*Wednesday, July 19*  
Bedford Village Memorial Park  
Bedford, NY

### The Poa/Met Championship/ Met Team Qualifier

*Monday, October 3*  
Sunningdale Country Club  
Scarsdale, NY  
Host: Sean Cain, CGCS

### Met Area Team Championship

*Tuesday, October 16*  
Westchester Country Club, Rye, NY  
Host: David Dudones

### MetGCSA/CAGCS Fall Seminar

*Thursday, November 9*  
The Patterson Club, Fairfield, CT  
Host: Jason Meersman

### MetGCSA Winter Seminar

*Wednesday, January 10, 2018*  
Westchester Country Club, Rye, NY  
Host: David Dudones

## Regional Events

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

*Tuesday, July 25*  
Horticultural Farm II  
New Brunswick, NJ

The annual Rutgers Turfgrass Research Field Day for Golf & Fine Turf allows industry professionals to view the university's many research plots, as well as learn about the most current developments in turfgrass management. Field tours throughout the day will focus on disease, insect, and weed control, and attendees will have the opportunity to evaluate a variety of new golf course products.

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

### 2017 UMass Turf Research Field Day

*Wednesday, July 26*  
UMass Joseph Troll Turf Research Center  
South Deerfield, MA

Presented on a biannual basis, this field day highlights the wide range of research projects taking place at the university. Turf

practitioners will have the opportunity to not only view projects underway, but also meet and speak with UMass staff. The event will include a trade show and demonstrations and exhibits from numerous industry vendors.

For further information, visit <http://ag.umass.edu/turf/research/umass-turf-research-field-day>.

### 2017 GREEN EXPO Turf & Landscape Conference

*Tuesday – Thursday, December 5 – 7*  
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](http://www.njturfgrass.org).

# MetGCSA Slides Into Fourth Place at Nor'easter Ski Day

by Andy Drohen

On February 16, nine golf course superintendent associations from the Northeast competed in the fourth annual Nor'easter Ski Day event at Killington Ski Resort in Killington, VT. More than 100 superintendents and industry representatives, along with their families, came together for a day of camaraderie, great skiing, and friendly competition on the slopes of Vermont.

For the third time in a row, the host team from Vermont, led by the fastest male of the mountain, James Writer, took home the Nor'easter Cup. They defeated their archrivals from the Northeastern group by just 9 seconds! The flatlanders from New Jersey claimed an impressive third place with two of their racers placing in the top six overall! And finally, at 60 years old, MetGCSA member Jeff Scott placed fourth overall for individuals and, at the same time, helped our team to their fourth-place finish as well!

The staff at Killington Mountain's Racing School was so impressed with the skill level of our expert golfers that they set up an even more challenging course this year on their black diamond "Highline" race trail, just a few hundred feet away from where the women's World Cup event was held in November!

Conditions were just perfect this year with several Nor'easters dropping powder in time for the February event. Race conditions were described as firm and fast for the two-run giant slalom race. Each team totaled their fastest four racers and prizes were given out to the fastest overall male and female skiers and boarders! Vermont also successfully defended their title over the Northeastern group in the Vermont Cup, a rivalry that dates back to 1993!

## Top Scorers at Killington

Trophies and prizes were awarded to the following "Kings and Queens of the Mountain":

### Fastest Male Skier:

James Writer from the Vermont GCSA 28.10



Koch Agronomic's Andy Drohen (right) on the Wobbly Barn stage with Syngenta's Brian Goudey working the event's annual fundraising raffle designed to raise money to support those in need from our industry.

### Fastest Female Skier:

Claire Whitaker from the 34.87

### Fastest Male Snowboarder:

Mark Finch from the 36.69

Vermont GCSA

Fastest Female Snowboarder: No racers

Here's a look at how the teams fared in the competition:

### Team Scores

(Fastest four individual times totaled)

	Time
1st Vermont GCSA	2:00:64
(Winner of Nor'easter Cup & Vermont Cup)	
2nd Northeastern GCSA	2:09:93
3rd New Jersey GCSA	2:18:68
4th MetGCSA	2:22:45
5th GCSA New England	2:24:55
6th Connecticut AGCS	2:26:38
7th Rhode Island GCSA	2:34:80
8th Cape Cod	2:51:55
9th Long Island GCSA	2:56:89

## The Grand Finale

If the skiing and racing did not provide enough excitement for folks, then the Après Ski party at the Wobbly Barn proved a fine ending to a competitive day on the slopes. Support from our generous sponsors helped provide great food and an open bar for a few hours after skiing. Killington is the place to be during the winter, providing highly discounted ski passes for the group and affordable pricing on lodging! Make sure to watch for dates for 2018 and join your associates for a great day on the slopes during the off-season!

As in years past, this event also serves as a fundraising opportunity to help industry members in times of need. Over the past several years, proceeds from the Nor'easter Ski Day have offered support to fellow superintendents or their family members dealing with everything from medical challenges to recovery from a natural disaster.

The event has raised thousands of dollars so far, and we are pleased to have increased that number by more than \$1,000 again in 2017. If you want to send us a message rec-

## Scorecard

# Shorehaven Attracts More-Than-a-Full Field of Two-Ball Qualifiers

by Steve Wickstrom

ommending someone in need, please feel free to contact any of the board members. In the meantime, we will start a savings account for future needs.

We are all fortunate to be associated with such great folks, and we encourage all of you to join us next year as we continue to use the event to help our own. Thanks to all who donated so generously, and special thanks to Augie Young of Sipcam, Wes Bishop of Reliable Racing, and Scott Watelet from Northern Ski Works, who all generously donated to our raffle!

Another special thanks to Chris Cowan, who took some great photographs at the event. Photos of the race day can be viewed at: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/115122615@N07/albums/72157679762673642>.

## Thank You to Our Sponsors

The Nor'easter Ski Day was made great because of the overwhelming support of its sponsors! We would like to thank the following companies for their help in making this event a huge success.

**Platinum Sponsors:** Syngenta, Jacobsen, MTE Turf Equipment, and Vermont Precision Reel Grinding

**Gold Sponsors:** BASF, Sipcam Rotam, Toro, Turf Products, and Grassland

**Silver Sponsors:** Atlantic Golf & Turf, GenNext, Aquatrols, Seeton Turf, Koch Turf & Ornamental, Northeast Golf & Turf Supply, Rain Bird, New England Specialty Soils, Sunbelt Rentals, Harrell's, and Winfield

**Bronze Sponsors:** Bayer, DOW Agro Sciences, Valley Green, FMC, Nufarm, Putnam Pipe, Winterberry Irrigation, Grigg Brothers, Quali-Pro, Vermont GCSA, and the Northeastern GCSA

Special thanks goes out to Syngenta for supplying everyone with great T-shirts that are sure to become collectors' items over the years!

Hope to see you next winter on the slopes!

*Andy Drohen, a member of the Tee to Green Editorial Committee is the Northeast Sr. Territory Manager with Koch Agronomic Services.*

**W**e had a large field, with 84 golfers in all, and great weather for our annual Dave Mahoney Two-Ball Qualifier held this year on April 22 at Shorehaven Country Club. Our host Superintendent Ryan Segrue and his staff had Shorehaven looking green and in mid-season form, which had area supers feel they should rush back to their courses to get those fertilizer applications going.

A big thank you to Shorehaven's clubhouse and pro shop staffs and to Ryan and his staff for their wonderful hospitality and for going the extra mile in making this a special event.

## The Highlights

The competition was fierce as 34 teams vied for the 32 available spots. Jason Meersman and Todd Apgar earned themselves the number one seed by winning the 2016 First Flight Championship. Steve Loughran and Brian Bontemps will be the number two seed, having shot a gross 72 and a tournament low net of 66.

Tim Walker and Ryan Batz, will be the Second Flight top seed having won the 2016 Second Flight Championship. Using course knowledge and what we can assume was some favorable course setup to his advantage, Ryan Segrue and his partner, Jim Shell, shot an 89 for a net 71 to earn the second seed.

Prizes were awarded for one Longest Drive and Closest to the Pin on five holes. Low scores were also rewarded with Low Gross of the Day going to partners Tom Ashfield and Andy Drohen with a 71.

Please be sure to visit our website at [www.metgcsa.org](http://www.metgcsa.org) to see how the teams are faring in each round of the competition. If you are playing in the event, note that all matches should be completed by the following dates:

**Round One** ~ June 30

**Quarter Finals** ~ August 4

**Semi-Finals** ~ September 8

**Finals** ~ October 6

Tournament results will be promptly updated throughout the season. The winning team of each match is responsible for reporting their results to tournament director Steve Loughran at [sloughran17@yahoo.com](mailto:sloughran17@yahoo.com).

Now, a look at the day's golf results:

## Events of the Day Results

### Low Gross Winners

- 71 Tom Ashfield/Andy Drohen  
*Quaker Ridge GC/Koch Agronomic Services*
- 74 Reed Williams/Nicholas Roberto  
*Cushman E-Z-Go*

### Low Net Winners

- 66 Steve Loughran/Brian Bontemps  
*Rock Ridge CC/Seeton Turf Warehouse*
- 67 Tony Grasso/Scott Tretera  
*Westchester CC/Harrell's LLC*
- 68 Brent Peveich/Mark Chant  
*Pine Hollow CC/Turf Science of Conn.*
- 69 Tim Walker/Ryan Batz  
*Leewood GC/Grass Roots Turf Prods.*

### Closest to the Pin

- #2 Jaime Devers, *Canoe Brook CC* 3' 2"
  - #5 Sean Cain, *Sunningdale CC* 5' 7"
  - #13 Steve Loughran, *Rock Ridge CC* 9'
  - #15 Zach Brooks 11' 11"  
*Seeton Turf Warehouse*
  - #17 Doug Snyder, *Milbrook Club* 11' 10"
- Longest Drive**  
Brian Chapin, *Paramount CC*

*Steve Wickstrom, a member of the MetGCSA Tournament Committee, is superintendent at Burning Tree Country Club in Greenwich, CT.*

## A Finish to the Unfinished Business at the 2016 Two-Ball

The First Flight Finalists, Todd Apgar & Jason Meersman and Larry Pakkala & Scott Niven finally came together to play their final match in the 2016 Dave Mahoney Two-Ball Tournament.

The two teams met on April 17 to battle it out on the Hudson National links. From all accounts, it wasn't much of a battle until the 15th hole, when Scott won it to put himself and his partner, Larry, down 3 with three to play.

On 16, Larry knocked it within four feet on the par 3, 230-yard hole overlooking the beautiful Hudson River. Unfortunately, he missed the putt, only to hand the victory to Jason and Todd. Congratulations Jason and Todd! So some things really are worth waiting for!

## Jason Meersman Welcomes Super/Guest Tournament to Patterson

by Todd Apgar

MetGCSA members had the fortunate opportunity to experience The Patterson Club in Fairfield, CT, from a whole new perspective. Host to our annual Fall Seminar, attendees have seen little more than the inside of Patterson's impressive clubhouse. On May 1, that changed as Host Superintendent Jason Meersman welcomed Met members to the course to compete in our annual Superintendent/Guest Tournament.

### The Patterson Club Yesterday and Today

The Patterson Club was first organized by General Electric Co. employees in 1929 as a dining and social club with 20 charter members. Its name was derived from C. E. Patterson, a vice president and general manager of GE's Appliance and Merchandise Department.

By the spring of 1930, it had more than 100 members and was located at the beautiful Harral homestead in Bridgeport, CT. In 1945, the club then purchased the 163-acre Quasset Farm, home to Winthrop Palmer, the first female CT State Senator, so it could be expanded to include facilities for golf.

The premier golf course architect of the time, Robert Trent Jones Sr., was commissioned to design the original course, which opened in June of 1947. The first official foursome on the course was GE President Charles E. Wilson, GE Chairman Phillip D. Reed, and renowned golfers Bobby Jones and Gene Sarazen!

The club has undergone many improvements in the past 70 years, but none more successful than the renovation of the golf course and construction of the new clubhouse, both of which opened in May of 2010. The course renovation, done by Rees Jones, greatly enhanced the course while seamlessly maintaining Robert Trent Jones Sr.'s original vision and layout. It involved rebuilding all tees and bunkers, as well as the addition of several new tees and bunkers. Many greens were expanded to gain new and interesting pin placements, and the put-

ting green and greens on the sixth and eighteenth holes were entirely rebuilt. As if all that weren't enough, all greens were then regrassed with A1/A4 bentgrass during the project.

"This is a course where both strong and average golfers can enjoy themselves," says Jason. "And I am happy to provide them with a great product."

You can clearly see the members' enjoyment as they wave Jason over to thank him for his hard work. "Some of the members will joke and jab me about the changes," says Jason, "but I know they are doing it in good fun."

### Made for the Industry

Coming from a family of golf course superintendents, Jason Meersman always had one thing in mind: following in his family's footsteps and becoming a superintendent, himself, one day. The legacy began with Jason's grandfather, who was a golf course superintendent at South Bend Country Club, in South Bend, IN, and continued with Jason's father.

At just 12 years old, Jason, along with his older brother, Dan, who is now director of grounds at the Philadelphia Cricket Club, began working for their father at the 36-hole, semi-private Pine View Golf Club in Three Rivers, MI. Still in the turf business, Jason's father is currently the director of parks and recreation in Kingman, AZ.

"We all feel very lucky to have had the opportunity to be part of this great game," says Jason.

With a future in golf course management assured, Jason attended Michigan State University where he studied Turfgrass Management. Shortly after graduation, Jason was hired as an assistant superintendent at Caves Valley Golf Club in Maryland, working under Steve Glossinger.

"I cannot say enough about the team leaders and membership at Caves Valley," says Jason. "To this day, they treat me like family, and I would not be where I am today without their guidance."

After six years at Caves Valley, Jason landed his first and current superintendent's job at The Patterson Club in December 2011.



Jason Meersman

### Family Man and More

In addition to hosting our annual Fall Seminar, Jason is happy to serve the association as a member on the Advertising Committee, a position he's held since joining the Met in 2012.

Though work and industry commitments can be more-than-a-fulltime job, Jason always finds time for family. In fact, when I stopped by to ask a few questions for this profile, there he was, sitting in his office with his daughter Malin by his side. Jason and his wife of six years, Lara, have two daughters: Malin, who is 5, and, Luella, who is almost 3.

If Jason is not at the course, he's spending time playing with his daughters, at the gym with his wife, playing golf, or traveling to new places.

"My family means the world to me," says Jason. "And my wife is the glue that holds our family together."

Now for a few little-known facts about Jason: When he was 18, Jason won a washer and dryer and a bedroom set on *The Price Is Right* television show. Celebrating his 15 minutes of fame, Jason took the opportunity to chat with the famous game show host, Bob Barker. "After he found out I was a state champion golfer in Michigan (wow, who knew?), he and I had a nice conversation about golf," says Jason.

Hope you all had the chance to pull Jason aside at the Superintendent/Guest for the scoop on his claim-to-fame story. Check out the results on the next page to see how all who came out for this terrific event fared in the competition.

*Todd Apgar, a member of the Tee to Green Editorial Committee, is a sales representative with Metro Turf Specialists.*

# The Winning Results of the Super/Guest Tournament

by Steve Loughran

**O**n May 1, Patterson Club Superintendent Jason Meersman and his staff did an outstanding job of showcasing their course for our annual Superintendent/Guest Tournament. Many thanks to the entire Patterson Club staff for going out of their way to make the day special for MetGCSA superintendents and their guests.

Contestants competed in a Yellow Ball Tournament, which is a Best Ball Net event, as well as the traditional Superintendent/Guest, which is a Gross & Net competition.

Here's a look at how the contestants fared:

## Gross & Net Competition

### First Place Gross Winners ~ 142

Dave Lippman  
Westchester Turf  
Ryan Oliver, superintendent  
Hudson National  
Jeff Gallo/Rob Saunders  
Winfield Solutions

### Second Place Gross Winners ~ 148

David Dudones, superintendent  
Westchester Country Club  
Danny Balin, club official  
Westchester Country Club  
Jeff Wentworth, superintendent  
Pelham Country Club  
Peter Flor, club official  
Pelham Country Club

### First Place Net Winners ~ 123

Andrew Agnew, superintendent  
Gary Trapani/Bill Cook/Joe Ferrari, club officials  
Mt. Kisco Country Club

### Second Place Net Winners ~ 126

Brett Chapin, superintendent  
Redding Country Club  
Rob Hutchinson, club official  
Redding Country Club  
Jason Dogwietz/Dave Conrad  
Plant Food Company

## Yellow Ball Event

### First Place Winners ~ 72

Andrew Agnew, superintendent  
Gary Trapani/Bill Cook/Joe Ferrari, club officials  
Mt. Kisco Country Club

### Longest Drive ~ #4

Chad Joshpe, club official  
Rock Ridge Country Club

### Closest to the Pin ~ #14

Carlos Sanes, asst. superintendent  
Fairview Country Club



## What Is the Yellow Ball Format?

Now a tradition at this annual tournament, the Yellow Ball is a four-person Best Ball Net event with a yellow ball rotating through the foursome. Each team member plays the yellow ball individually on their respective holes and posts their net score per hole. The goal is to finish the 18-hole event without losing the yellow ball. If the yellow ball is lost, your team is out of the competition.

Steve Loughran, our Tournament Committee Chair, is superintendent of Rock Ridge Country Club in Newtown, CT.



Noah McCahill

## New Super/Venue to Host MetGCSA Invitational

by Jim Pavonetti, CGCS

**T**he 2017 MetGCSA Invitational Tournament, on June 6, will showcase one of the newest courses in the Met Area: Trump Golf Links at Ferry Point. Making this event all the more special is that our host superintendent, Noah McCahill, happens to be one of the newest superintendents in the Met Area! The club's first super, Greg Eisner, recently accepted a position in Wilmington, DE, which opened the door for Noah's promotion to superintendent at Ferry Point.

Located on a former municipal waste site, Ferry Point opened in 2015 after roughly 31 years of red tape and a record-setting investment of \$269 million. Regarded as one of the finest public courses in the country, this course has received extraordinary reviews from architects, writers, and other industry professionals.

With its rolling mounds of golden fescue bordering 7,407 yards of pristine tees, fairways, and greens, Trump Golf Links at Ferry Point promises a winning golf experience and a great venue for the Met's most popular and prestigious tournament.

## Leading Up to Ferry Point

Noah grew up in North Salem, NY, starting out, like most of us in the turf industry, working summers for a local golf course (right across the street) during and after his high school years. After getting his feet wet with Superintendent Chuck Denny at Salem Golf Club, he knew he had found the career path he wanted to pursue.

He enrolled in Rutgers University's Turf Management certificate program, completing his studies in 2006. After graduating, Noah secured an internship, working for then Superintendent Bill Perlee at The Apawamis Club.

"My experience there was invaluable," says Noah. "In addition to helping me fine-tune my turf knowledge, Bill introduced me to local major golf events like the Barclays at Westchester Country Club and the U.S. Open at Winged Foot Golf Club."

As Noah's internship came to a close, another door opened: He was hired as a second assistant at Winged Foot by Eric Greytock. When Eric moved on, Noah stayed put, working for past Superintendents Paul Ramina and then Matt Burrows, who eventually promoted him to first assistant on Winged Foot's famed West Course.

Working at Winged Foot gave Noah just the right mix of knowledge and experience to manage high-performance turf and high expectations: "I learned how to advocate for the proper balance of agronomic principles that will produce excellent playability while still maintaining healthy turfgrass," says Noah, adding, "I've also learned that one of the key components to job success is superb communication and leadership, not only with the staff, but with members and club officials as well."

After several years at Winged Foot, Noah moved on to the North Shore of Long Island and The Creek Club, working for Superintendent Adam Wilkins.

Then, two seasons later, in July of 2012, Noah accepted a new and interesting challenge working for Greg Eisner at the Trump Golf Links at Ferry Point. "I had worked at parkland-style and links-style golf courses," says Noah. "Now at Trump, I was offered the opportunity to not only grow in a championship golf course, but also work with topnotch Architect Jack Nicklaus."

## A Unique Start at Ferry Point

For Noah, working with Jack Nicklaus and his team was beyond exciting. "Greg and I were in direct contact with Mr. Nicklaus's team members, John Sanford and Jim Lipe," says Noah. "They would check in to make sure that the original design was achieved, suggesting, at one point, that we adjust rough mowing lines to the shape of the bunkering or that we groom the fescue to have a natural windswept sand look. It was an ever-evolving process," says Noah.

The construction process, itself, added interest, and certainly a fair amount of challenge, to the experience.

"The entire property is capped in sand rather than soil, making the grow-in process a challenge," explains Noah. "Normal watering practices and fertility inputs were vastly different than what both Greg and I had been used to at older courses," he continues. "Trying to establish 80 acres of unirrigated native rough presented numerous challenges that forced us to think outside the box. We became quite good at coming up with new approaches and techniques to complete any task out of the normal."

Noah had five years at Ferry Point under his belt before accepting his current position as the club's superintendent. "Working for Greg these past five years prepared me well for the position I'm in today," says Noah, paying great due to his former boss and mentor.

Having spent his entire career working in the Met Area, Noah is no doubt accustomed to achieving the highest level of course conditioning. So it is no surprise that when asked how it's been to work for Mr. Trump, Noah had nothing but good things to say: "Working for the Trump organization has been incredible," he says. "The organization has helped me perfect my eye for detail to keep the golf course conditioning to a Jack Nicklaus Signature Design standard."

## The Secret to Shooting a Good Score

Trump Golf Links at Ferry Point was designed and built for championship-level golf. "It is our expectation to deliver a major golf event to New York City in the future," says Noah, noting that the course plays a challenging 7,407 yards from the tips, with a slope rating of 146.

When I asked Noah for advice on how to play this undeniably challenging course to best advantage, he first emphasized keeping the ball on the mowed turf. "Sometimes," he continued, "it may be more useful to use a club that you can hit straight rather than trying to outdrive your opponent. The greens are fairly large, but some of the approaches with false fronts or collection areas will penalize you if your shot isn't calculated. All in all," he added, "accuracy is much more beneficial than distance."

When asked if he has a favorite hole, he hesitated: "It's hard to decide my favorite, but if I had to choose, it would be the 11th hole. From the tee," he explained, "the relatively short, 352-yard par four is very intimidating. You're faced with eight bunkers and not many large or forgiving landing areas. The payoff, though, is, after making it past the fairway and onto the green, you are rewarded with one of the best views of the New York City skyline."

## Life Beyond Ferry Point

When Noah's workday is done, he enjoys various outdoor activities throughout the year, including boating, fishing, and ice hockey. When time permits, he enjoys competing in a men's ice hockey league.

Fortunate to still have great relationships with childhood friends, Noah likes nothing more than getting together with them to ride—motorcycles over bicycles.

A family person, he is pleased to have stayed in the Met area where his sizable family is within a few hours' commute. Every Sunday, you'll find him dining at his older brother's house, where he enjoys spending time with his brother and his family.

The MetGCSA's 2017 Invitational should be an awesome event. Be sure not to miss this tournament and a chance to meet Noah and his team, while enjoying a day of golf on one of the newest and most challenging courses in the area.

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



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