

manpr

January/February/March 2018
VOLUME 49 NUMBER 1

Tee To Green

Published by the Metropolitan Golf Course Superintendents Association



MetGCSA
est 1959

Board of Directors



President

DAVID DUDONES
Westchester Country Club

Vice President

KENNETH BENOIT JR., CGCS
Glen Arbor Golf Club

Treasurer

ROBERT B. ALONZI JR.
Fenway Golf Club

Secretary

BRETT CHAPIN
Redding Country Club

Past President

GLEN DUBE, CGCS
Centennial Golf Club

Directors

MICHAEL BRUNELLE, CGCS
Upper Montclair Country Club

STEVEN LOUGHRAN
Rock Ridge Country Club

VINCENT PAVONETTI, CGCS
Fairview Country Club

DANIEL ROGERS
Wykagyl Country Club

JESSE SHANNON, CGCS
Manhattan Woods Golf Club

STEPHEN WICKSTROM
Burning Tree Country Club

Class "C" Rep

DAVE PETERSON
Brae Burn Country Club

Class "AF" Rep

SCOTT TRETERA
Harrel's LLC

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	ANTHONY MINNITI
KEVIN COLLINS	BOB NIELSEN
ANDY DROHEN	SCOTT NIVEN
CHIP LAFFERTY	TOM REYES
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 © 2018

Tee To Green



Cover: Pelham
Country Club

In this Issue

Feature

Getting Through the Maze of a Golf Course Restoration2

Departments

Upcoming Events5

Chapter News6

National News10

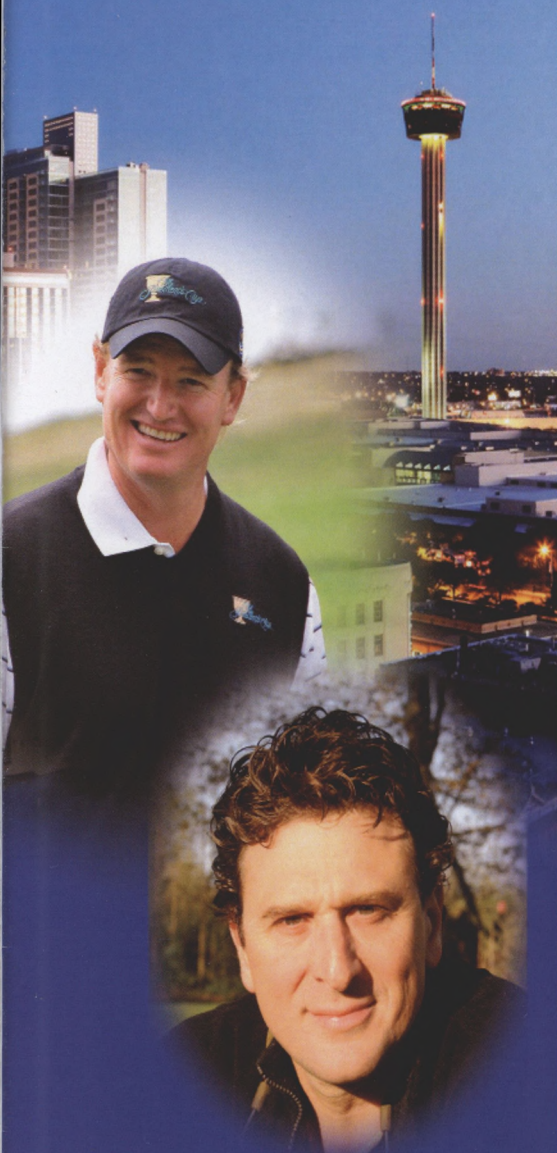
National Scorecard10

Member News.....11

Spotlight12

President's Message

Reflecting on the Golf Industry Show



SERIALS

APR 06 2018

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
LIBRARIES

H

aving attended the National Championship and Golf Industry Show not long ago, our minds are filled with new ideas, plans, and practices to implement in the upcoming season. GIS offers unparalleled opportunities to learn about everything from the latest and greatest trends in turf management, technology, and equipment to changes in government regulations—all while sharing valuable insights and information with colleagues from across the country.

Opening Session Steals the Show

Two of my favorite highlights from the conference were during the Opening Session. The first was when Cornell's Dr. Frank Rossi, the Met's 2017 John Reid Lifetime Achievement Award winner, received the President's Award for Environmental Stewardship from the GCSAA. Frank has more accomplishments than I can list, not the least of which includes his work with the New York State BMPs for Golf Courses. Kudos to Bob Nielsen, Ken Benoit, Blake Halderman, and the rest of the MetGCSA board for having the foresight to initiate this project and then involve the industry's best, beginning with Dr. Rossi.

Another personal favorite from that session was when Pro Golfer Ernie Els, this year's Old Tom Morris Award winner, gave a huge shout out to Westchester Country Club where he's enjoyed playing in past tournaments.

Els was awarded the GCSAA's highest honor in recognition of his charitable work. He, along with his wife, Liezl, founded not only The Els for Autism Foundation, but also The Ernie Els & Fancourt Foundation. Much like our First Tee Program, this foundation offers educational and life-skills assistance, along with the opportunity to learn the game of golf, to young talent from families with limited resources in Els' homeland, South Africa.

While dedicated to promoting golf in South Africa, Els also showed high regard for golf and clubs in our area. It was wonderful to hear a world-renowned figure in golf recognize our corner of the golf world.



David Dudones
MetGCSA President

Another Noteworthy Nor'easter

Every year, the largest of our social gatherings at the GIS is the Nor'easter. This year's event was, once again, a crowd-pleaser. Attended by more than 400 guests from 10 associations, it did not disappoint. Catching up with colleagues from across the Northeast over Tex/Mex-themed food and drink was a great way to end a hectic, but productive week. Thank you to all our event sponsors and to MetGCSA Social Chairman Brett Chapin and his committee. They have done an excellent job with this event over the past five years, and as a result, it continues to grow in popularity every year.

I'm already looking forward to next year's GIS in San Diego, CA, which will, no doubt, offer a more hospitable climate for National Championship participants and their families. During our past two trips to San Antonio, TX, the weather has been less-than-stellar for our pre-conference tournament.

With San Diego now top of mind, I can finally start thinking about warmer weather and the start of our golf season. Our crews will be back to work before we know it, and we will be shifting into high gear again to do what we do best. Please be sure to join fellow Met members for our season-opening Dave Mahoney Two-Ball Qualifier on April 30 at Pelham Country Club.

All the best to everyone in your preparation for the season!

David Dudones
MetGCSA President

Getting Through the Maze of a Golf Course Restoration

Rich LaBar of LaBar Golf Renovations Offers Insight Into Navigating Project Work—Large and Small—on Your Course

by Greg Wojick



*Westchester Country Club ~
Fazio Design: bunkers, tees,
drainage, fairway expansions,
green expansions*

There are so many superb golf courses in the Met area that have been—or are being—restored that we thought we'd visit a few through the eyes of, not the architect in charge, but the contractor. And who better to speak with than Rich LaBar, founder and president of LaBar Golf Renovations. Rich, along with his two business partners, Shellene Elmore and Kenny Urbano, has been involved in more than 35 course restorations in the Met area, and dozens more throughout the country, since launching his company in 2012.

Drawing from a passion for the game of golf and more than 28 years in turfgrass and golf course construction management (see sidebar, page 5), Rich has built working relationships with many of the best supers and architects that our area, and the country, has to offer.

Here, in a candid interview, Rich shares his insights and philosophies on how best to get through the maze that is golf course restoration.

Greg: *What is your top priority as a contractor in the golf business? And what do you recommend superintendents look for in a contractor?*

Rich: First and foremost, I work to put our company in the best position to be awarded great projects. Second, I want to execute the work at the highest level in order to ensure the best outcome for our clients.

Superintendents are expected to produce championship conditions virtually every day. I feel a good construction company understands that and will want to put their all into handing over a restored course that is turnkey with the shortest possible grow-in time. I also feel superintendents should make it clear upfront that they expect deadlines for the project work to be completed, without exception, according to schedule.

I've found that the superintendents we've worked with appreciate that we start and finish each project on time. One of our other priorities is that, if there is a repair or alteration necessary, we accomplish it within a few working days. This is the stuff that lasting relationships are built on. I'm grateful for the many clients we've been called on to help again and again.

Greg: *There are few things more stressful to a superintendent than trying to explain why a contractor hasn't started or finished a project in the timeframe promised. So you mean to tell me that you've never had situations—weather, staffing issues, or other circumstances out of your control—affect that deadline?*

Rich: I have built a reputation throughout my years of sticking to that basic edict: Start on time and finish on time. And we never step away from a job until it's done!

Greg: *So there have never been any extenuating circumstances that have stood in the way of meeting a deadline?*

Rich: Well to be honest, we have been juggling so many projects the past few years that our only challenge might be related to project management. We have to really be on our toes about when and where we agree to work. If we misstep, then we have challenges. Thankfully, I have a "Ph.D." in project management!

Greg: *What type of projects do you get involved with?*

Rich: I welcome jobs of any scope, and I particularly enjoy large restoration projects that require a comprehensive approach. But unfortunately, it's just not feasible to travel long distances for projects that are smaller in scope.

Greg: *Working with high-end properties has to go along with working with some pretty special architects.*

Rich: We have worked with a good number of great architects. We have been lucky to work on 10 prominent projects with Hanse Golf Design. In fact, I've gotten to know Gil Hanse and his partner, Jim Wagner, quite well. What's great about Hanse Golf Design is that they really like to jump on the dozer and shape some of the critical parts of the project themselves.

We've also had the pleasure of working with Rees Jones, Fazio Design, Renaissance Golf Design, Nicklaus Design (Jim Lipe), Dye Design (Tim Liddy), Tripp Davis, Keith Foster, John Harvey, Ken Dye, Ron Forse, Dr. Mike Hurzdan, Dave Heatwole, Mike DeVries, Jackson/Kahn, Todd Eckenrode, Kye Goalby, Tom Fazio II, and soon Andrew Green.

Greg: *Rich, that's quite a list! So what would you say is most rewarding about your work?*

Rich: There are elements of every project that I enjoy and find rewarding. I have been fortunate to work with many great golf clubs in more than 15 states. But I find it extremely satisfying to manage projects that



*Winged Foot GC ~
Gil Hanse: greens,
tees, bunkers, drainage,
fairway expansions*

breathe new life into an old course design or bring an owner's and architect's vision for a piece of property to fruition. I enjoy hearing various architects' reasoning behind different designs, and finally, seeing how memberships react to the outcome of a restoration to their course. But just as, if not more, gratifying is having the ability, as a business owner, to positively impact our employees and their family's lives.

Greg: *Tell me about some of your most unusual projects or requests.*

Rich: I'd have to say my most unusual project was building a six-hole course on a private ranch in a remote town in Texas. The owner had a collection of exotic animals—zebras, antelope, oryx, among others—roaming around. Though they were fenced off from the golf course, we had to be aware that they were there.

And not that this is so unusual, but it's been interesting working at six Trump properties and having a relationship with Mr. Trump prior to his presidency. I have to say, he was wonderful to work with and very supportive of my company and our team. He loves the game of golf and took a very active role in the design and renovation of his courses. Currently, I have the pleasure of working with Eric Trump, and I have nothing but great things to say about The Trump Organization. And of course, seeing Marine One land and take off never gets old!

Greg: *Have you ever had anything unusual or unexpected to deal with?*

Rich: At that same ranch in Texas, Hurricane Harvey forced our team that was working there to "hunker down" for a number of days.

And then the Santa Ana winds in California were a bit of a surprise. Those winds

made it very difficult to work because they caused constant dust storms. We had to deploy water trucks for months to suppress the dust in order to keep the project moving.

Greg: *What is most challenging about the work you do?*

Rich: Northeast winter weather! Thank God for a great bank and banker.

Greg: *I can relate to that! So what do you feel is the key to making a restoration project go smoothly?*

Rich: Communication, communication, communication. I can't emphasize enough just how important communication is to a project's success. Whether I'm working alongside the course architect or the superintendent, I make sure to work toward developing a meaningful relationship.

Meeting with the superintendent about once a week, in person, goes a long way toward defusing any anxiety that may be building. After all, the superintendent has put a lot of work and effort into getting the project approved and underway.

Board members, committee members, and the general membership look to the superintendent for answers about the progress of the project. I like to make sure the superintendent is well informed and that we are on the same page.

As a business owner, I have made it a practice to acknowledge all communication within 24 hours.

Greg: *You were a golf course superintendent for 11 years at several New Jersey golf courses. How do you think that's benefited the work you do?*

Rich: Working on golf courses all those years, I've seen "the other side." I know the trials and tribulations superintendents face

Where LaBar Restoration Has Left Its Tracks

Here are some of the golf facilities, and architects, that LaBar Restoration has worked with recently:

New York

Blind Brook Club

Bunkers, green expansions

Century CC ~ Keith Foster

Greens, tees, bunkers, drainage, fairway expansions, practice area

Fenway GC ~ Gil Hanse

Bunkers, fairway expansions

Hudson National GC ~ Fazio Design

Driving range, practice area, miscellaneous bunker work

Quaker Ridge GC ~ Gil Hanse

Bunkers, tees, drainage, greens

Shinnecock Hills GC ~ USGA

Fairway narrowing

Siwanoy CC ~ Mike Devries

Complete course renovation

St. Andrew's GC ~ Dave Heatwole

Driving range, pond work, tees, greens, new 3rd hole

Sunningdale CC ~ Mike Devries

Complete course renovation

The Creek ~ Gil Hanse

Complete course renovation

Trump National GC, Westchester

Bunkers

Trump National GC, Hudson Valley

Bunkers

Trump Golf Links at Ferry Point

Miscellaneous projects

Tuxedo Club ~ Rees Jones

Bunkers, greens

Westchester CC ~ Fazio Design

Bunkers, tees, drainage, fairway expansions, green expansions

Winged Foot GC ~ Gil Hanse

Greens, tees, bunkers, drainage, fairway expansions

Wykagyl CC ~ Crenshaw/Coore

Range tee, miscellaneous course work

Connecticut

Burning Tree CC ~ Tripp Davis

Greens, tees, bunkers, drainage

CC of Darien ~ Mike Hurzdan

Greens, range tee, bunkers

Innis Arden GC ~ Ken Dye

Greens, tees, bunkers, fairway expansions

Milbrook Club ~ John Harvey

Greens, driving range

Rolling Hills CC ~ Tripp Davis

Bunkers, tees

The Patterson Club ~ Fazio Design

Practice green, tee complex

New Jersey

Ridgewood CC ~ Gil Hanse

Bunkers, tees, practice area, tournament restoration

Morris County GC ~ Forse Design

Greens, tees, bunkers

Upper Montclair CC

Miscellaneous projects

Trump National GC, Bedminster

Bunkers, greens

Canoe Brook CC ~ Rees Jones

Bunkers, drainage, green expansions

Alpine CC ~ Ron Forse

Greens, miscellaneous projects

Montammy GC ~ John Harvey

Greens, tees

*Trump National Golf Course,
Bedminster: bunkers*

in managing large-scale construction projects. Even though I worked in the public sector, I worked for a demanding single owner. I saw firsthand that time is money. And disruption for golfers or members can lead to headaches for not only superintendents, but also club pros, general managers, and right up the chain to the board members. That, of course, is in part the reason I'm so razor-focused on sticking to a schedule. I think my golf course experience, combined with my love for and understanding of the game of golf, has provided me with important insight into the makings of a fine course renovation.

Greg: *Who should a superintendent considering renovation or restoration work contact first—a contractor or an architect?*

Rich: I don't have a preference whether the architect or restoration contractor is the first call when planning a project. Both can bring good ideas to the table. But of course, architects are skilled at setting a clear direction and detailed specifications for more involved projects. They can give larger projects credibility in the eyes of the membership or ownership and even help "sell" the project to get it approved.

For smaller jobs—building a new bunker, tee, or initiating any type of small course tweak—working solely with a construction company is usually all you need. When you do want to call in an architect, a contractor may be helpful in smoothing the way to your architect of choice, particularly if the two work together on a regular basis. I, personally, would never recommend one architect over another. That's the golf facility's decision.

In the end, whoever you decide to contact first, you can't go wrong with calling in both an experienced architect and experienced contractor. A good team can make all the difference in a large renovation's success.

Greg: *What are your words of wisdom to any superintendent entering into a restoration project on his or her course?*

Rich: Educate your people! Let your chairman, president, committee members know the scope of the work involved and, to the extent that you can, how much the work will cost. If you can, get a bunch of members in a car and visit project work that is underway at clubs in the area. Also make sure to mention that the work is an investment in the future and not simply an attempt to keep up with the Joneses.

Greg Wojick, a member of the Tee to Green Editorial Committee, is co-owner of Communitool LLC and Playbooks for Golf.

A Bit About Rich LaBar



Rich LaBar is founder and CEO of LaBar Golf Renovations, one of the premier golf construction and renovation companies in the country. Since teeing off for the first time at age 14, golf has been Rich's passion, and, with that, he brings an unparalleled level of dedication to his work.

Rich's career in the industry began during his college years, when he spent summers as part of the team responsible for building Crystal Springs Golf Course in Hamburg, NJ. Working as a crew member, Rich honed his craft, absorbing the fundamentals of course construction, including feature construction, drainage, irrigation, and grow-in.

In 1991, at the age of 22, Rich was named assistant superintendent at Bowling Green Golf Club in Oak Ridge, NJ. Within two years, he went on to become construction and grow-in superintendent for Black Bear Golf Course in Franklin, NJ, making him one of the youngest managers in the business.

From there, Rich continued his rapid rise in the industry, overseeing the planning, development, and construction of Ballyowen Golf Course and Wild Turkey Golf Course, both designed by Roger Rulewich.

In April 2004, Rich was hired by a regional golf course renovation company to help expand its business. Highlighted by a 36-hole renovation of the world-famous Baltusrol Golf Club, Rich played a major role in more than 25 successful projects. He launched LaBar Golf Renovations in June 2012.

Rich graduated from Rutgers University with a B.S. in Economics and Business. In 1993, he completed the Rutgers Turf Management Program. He lives in Harding Township, NJ, with his wife, Bridget, son Philip, 6, and daughter Annie, 3.

Upcoming Events

Get Ready, Set to Go to These Upcoming MetGCSA and Industry Events

Dave Mahoney Two-Ball Qualifier

Monday, April 30

Pelham Country Club, Pelham Manor, NY

Host: Jeff Wentworth, CGCS

Superintendent/Guest Tournament

Tuesday, May 15

Wykagyl Country Club

New Rochelle, NY

Host: Dan Rogers

MetGCSA Invitational Tournament

Monday, June 11

Brae Burn Country Club, Purchase, NY

Host: Blake Halderman, CGCS

Summer Social

Monday, July 9

Orienta Beach Club, Mamaroneck, NY

Summer Picnic

Wednesday, July 18

Bedford Village Memorial Park

Bedford, NY

The Poa/Met Championship/Met Team Qualifier

Tuesday, October 9

Old Oaks Country Club, Purchase, NY

Host: Jason Anderson

MetGCSA/CAGCS Fall Seminar

Thursday, November 8

The Patterson Club, Fairfield, CT

Host: Jason Meersman

MetGCSA Winter Seminar

Wednesday, January 16, 2019

Westchester Country Club, Rye, NY

Host: David Dudones

Regional Events

National Golf Day

Tuesday – Wednesday, April 24 – 25

Capitol Hill, Washington, D.C.

Join fellow golf industry professionals in our nation's capitol to celebrate the game's nearly \$70 billion economy, nearly \$4 billion annual charitable impact, and many environmental and fitness benefits. In its 11th year, National Golf Day offers the important opportunity to meet with members of Congress, the Executive Branch, and federal agencies to voice concerns, discuss issues, and to raise awareness of golf's numerous contributions.

The day before the main event begins, superintendents and other golf leaders are once again invited to participate in a community service initiative on the National Mall. Beginning the morning of April 24, the project will focus on beautification, preservation, and helping the National Park Service with turf-deferred maintenance.

2018 Rutgers Turfgrass Research Golf Classic

Monday, May 7

Fiddlers Elbow Country Club

Bedminster, NJ

Plan now to join fellow industry professionals for this annual fundraiser. Your participation helps fund research grants,

student scholarships, equipment, and special projects for the Turfgrass Research, Teaching, and Extension programs at the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences/Rutgers at The State University of New Jersey.

For further information, call 973-812-6467 or log on to www.njturfgrass.org.

Rutgers Turfgrass Research Field Day (Golf & Fine Turf)

Tuesday, July 31

Horticultural Farm II, New Brunswick, NJ

Save the date, and watch for details. Call 973-812-6467 or visit www.njturfgrass.org for further information.

The 14th Annual Joseph Troll Turf Classic

Tuesday, September 4

Winged Foot Golf Club, Mamaroneck, NY

Superintendent Steve Rabideau will host this year's UMass Alumni Turf Group fundraiser in support of turf education and research at the University of Massachusetts. Steve was also selected as this year's event honoree.

Please plan to attend this worthy fundraiser, and watch for details. Entry forms and additional information will be available online at www.alumniturfgroup.com.

Chapter News

Winter Seminar Examines Turf From Every Angle

by Anthony Minniti

The morning of January 10 offered a frosty, brisk start to what soon became a warm welcome from Westchester Country Club staff and the 250 fellow golf industry professionals attending this year's MetGCSA Winter Seminar. A special thank you to MetGCSA President and Westchester Country Club Superintendent David Dudones and the entire club staff for, once again, rolling out the red carpet for our annual event.

Our 32 exhibitor booths provided that added value that makes this annual event worthwhile. We'd like to extend a special thank you to the commercial members who participated. You'll find their names and numbers listed on page 8.

And last but not least, we would like to thank Education Committee Chair Brian Chapin and his committee for their hard work in organizing the event and selecting an excellent lineup of speakers. This will be Brian's last hoorah as our Education Chair and Met board member. Brian is moving on to the superintendent's position at Rolling Green Golf Club in Springfield, PA. Congratulations, Brian, and best of luck!

What follows is a quick take on the speakers' advice-to-remember, as well as their contact information. All are ready and willing to help.

Advances in Understanding Turfgrass Microbiology

Dr. Joe Roberts of the University of Maryland kicked off the morning session with a discussion of microbes and biologicals and their use in the turfgrass industry. The conversation began with an overview of biologicals and what makes them successful. Biologicals have been used for some time—Remember the old Bioject machines?—in the turf and agricultural industry as natural alternatives to chemical controls for certain diseases and even insects.

One problem with them, though, is that biologicals can be temperamental. They require just-the-right environment, including air-to-water ratio, temperature, and organic carbon levels, to thrive. So if, for

some reason, upon delivery the product isn't stored properly or applied according to label directions, you could end up with a lot of dead microbes, wasted money, and disappointing results!

There are a few projects that are currently being conducted to look at biologicals and how they can be effectively introduced into conventional turf programs. They are also looking at evaluating the impact of conventional and organic management on microbial populations.

Summarizing, we need to recognize the limitations of relying solely on biologicals. Right now, combining biologicals with our conventional disease and insecticide programs can lengthen control and increase efficacy, but biologicals are not at a point where they can be recommended as "stand-alone" products.

For further information, Dr. Roberts can be reached at robertsj@umd.edu or at 301-405-4355.

Nutrient Management and Your Soils

Auburn University's Dr. Beth Guertal spoke about how nutrient applications affect both chemical and physical soil properties. She started by reviewing Cation Exchange Capacity (CEC) and Base Saturation (BS). For those who need a refresher, CEC is a measure of how well the soil is supplying nutrients to the plant, and BS is the percent of CEC occupied by positively charged cations. Soil pH is a measure of your H⁺ ions, so as your soil pH increases, your base saturation increases.

Your ideal yields for base saturation are achieved by ensuring your Ca, K, and Mg levels fall within a certain range. Calcium should be between 65 and 85 percent BS; magnesium should be between 6 and 12 percent BS; and potassium should be between 2 and 5 percent BS.

Dr. Guertal then talked about liming sources, whether they are calcitic or dolomitic. When considering a liming product, Guertal recommends finding out what the CEC is. Gypsum, for example, does not increase your pH, but it does take aluminum ions out of the soil solution and increases infiltration.



Seminar-goers enjoy the awards luncheon at Westchester Country Club.

Dr. Guertal spoke about tissue potassium and how it has been shown to have no relationship to soil potassium levels. Your potassium concentrations aid in maintenance of your plant's water status. It does give some improvement in winter hardiness, though she noted that there is little research to support it.

If you tissue test, be sure to calibrate your specific site since the results can be highly variable. In summary, you need to be thinking of the CEC and BS when selecting soil solution modifying products. More nutrients will be available to the plant if everything is in line with one another. Every site is different and what works for you, may not work for the golf course next door. That is why soil testing is critical when making decisions on product selections.

For more information, Dr. Beth Guertal can be reached at guerta@auburn.edu or at 334-844-3999.

Tournament Preparations: Playability vs. Plant Health

Penn State's Dr. John Kaminiski rounded out the morning session by discussing what he and his team of researchers have discovered in their trials which analyze how to best balance putting green playability with plant health during tournament preparations.

Dr. Kaminiski emphasized the importance of understanding your golf committee's playability goals versus your own as the superintendent. Over-zealous preparation not only leads to higher maintenance costs, but also greater risk to plant health. In other words, sometimes the superintendent can be his own worst enemy.

Dr. Kaminiski went on to discuss the proper window for tournament preparation: the ideal time to start tournament preparation and how long more aggressive maintenance practices can be sustained before seeing a decline in turf health.

Dr. Kaminiski discovered that a stand of creeping bentgrass will peak five to seven days from the start of preparations, and at that point, turfgrass quality begins to decline. On a stand of annual bluegrass (*Poa annua*), the turf peaks after a period of three to five days, with no additional speed.

Fenway Golf Club Super Rob Alonzi (left center) presents the MetGCSA's coveted John Reid Lifetime Achievement Award to Fenway member and Lead Sports Anchor for NBC 4 New York Bruce Beck (right center). Joining them is Met Past President and Awards Committee Chair Glen Dube (left) and current President David Dudones (right).



Maintenance practices put to the test were height of cut and mowing frequency; the interaction of mowing patterns and use of nitrogen and Primo; and the interaction of mowing frequency and brushing, including rotary-powered, stiff-, and soft-bristle brushes.

As expected, height of cut had a large impact on ball roll distance throughout the study. The researchers also discovered that double cutting greens seemed to mimic the speeds of single cutting within each height-of-cut regime. Brushing greens, over a consistent period of time, resulted in slower green speeds.

This is ongoing research, and data is still being collected. Dr. Kaminski's next area of focus is to try to develop a formula to pinpoint when green speeds will peak, taking into account such factors as weather, soil type, and grass type. His theory is that all of these programs reach a point where the green speed and/or firmness will not increase with continued rolling, mowing, and height adjustments. His formula could, one day, forecast a desired tournament condition outcome with the proper inputs plugged in with the existing environmental conditions.

Dr. John Kaminski can be reached at kaminski@psuturf.edu or at 814-865-3007.

Awards Over Lunch

After the morning sessions adjourned, the awards luncheon began, and the MetGCSA presented its most coveted awards to two worthy recipients: the John Reid Lifetime Achievement Award to Bruce Beck, NBC News 4 New York Lead Sports Anchor, and the Sherwood A. Moore Award to Bedford Golf & Tennis Club Super Bob Nielsen.

MetGCSA Executive Director Mike McCall kicked off the ceremony by thanking all the guests for attending and the Westchester Country Club staff for continuously putting on a spectacular event for us. Fenway Golf Club Superintendent Rob Alonzi took the podium to introduce Fenway member and a former club green chair, Bruce Beck. Beck is not only a television presence but also closely associated with the golf industry and its many charitable initia-

tives. As a member and now president of the Metropolitan Golf Writers Association, Beck has been instrumental in the MGWA's fundraising for its Caddy Scholarship Fund and the MGA Foundation, and he also supports the First Tee, among other charitable endeavors. For more on Mr. Beck, see the November/December issue of *Tee to Green*.

Up to the podium next, Rockland Country Club Superintendent and past SAM Award recipient Matt Ceplo presented the coveted Sherwood A. Moore Award to good friend and colleague, Bob Nielsen. Rising through the chairs to MetGCSA president, Bob still actively contributes to the association serving on numerous committees. But his contributions go well beyond our chapter to GCSAA, where he's served as chapter delegate and now sits on numerous GCSAA committees and task groups ranging from the nominating and research committees to government affairs. Bob also advocates for our industry among the country's legislators and has become involved in the BMPs for New York State Golf Courses, which is a groundbreaking initiative that he was instrumental in starting. Bob is one who believes in giving back to the profession, and he just keeps on giving. There is no doubt that Bob is more than deserving of this prestigious award. For more on Bob, please see the September/October issue of the *Tee to Green*.

Rockland Super Matt Ceplo (center) presents the MetGCSA's prestigious Sherwood A. Moore Award to Bedford Golf & Tennis Superintendent Bob Nielsen (left). They are joined by Met Past President and Awards Committee Chair Glen Dube.



Promoting Plant Health: Keys to Successful Turfgrass Management

Dr. Bingru Huang opened the afternoon session with a discussion on plant health and products being developed to help plants better tolerate heat and drought stress. Dr. Huang defined a healthy plant as one "in good physiological condition that supports active growth and stress tolerance (with little or no biotic or abiotic stress)."

According to Dr. Huang, key traits of plant health are active root growth, disease and insect resistance, and playability. There are numerous products out there that claim to promote plant health. Traditional products include plant growth regulators (PGRs), biostimulants, and solar/UV protectant agents.

Dr. Huang and her team are experimenting with products that activate the plant's own natural defenses against both disease and drought stresses. Fungicide-type products include pigmented fungicides (Tartan, Signature Xtra, Interface), QoI fungicides (Heritage, Compass, Insignia), and fungicides with stress-defense activators in them (Daconil Action).

Dr. Huang gave the example of the plant hormone cytokinin, which is naturally produced within the plant and, in large enough quantities, can help the plant to exhibit better heat and drought tolerance. Researchers are now in the process of genetically modifying the turfgrass plant with a higher-than-normal content of cytokinins to determine if this will, in fact, help the turfgrass plant to better tolerate heat and drought.

Bayer's Stressguard formulation is in some of the company's fungicide products. These fungicides are pigmented, which helps increase the amount of photosynthetically active light that gets into the plant, and it also helps deflect harmful rays, which helps mitigate plant stress.

Dr. Huang also mentioned that Daconil Action, when applied alone or in combina-

tion with Primo Maxx, improved the performance of creeping bentgrass.

These products are tools that can help us manage stressful turf conditions if effectively used and rotated into our programs.

For further information, Dr. Huang can be reached at huang@aesop.rutgers.edu or at 848-932-6390.

Putting Green Root-Zone Maintenance Programs

Adam Moeller, director of the USGA Green Section Education and Northeast Region Agronomist, wrapped up the afternoon session with a talk about root-zone performance and maintenance.

Moeller began by discussing organic matter: why we accumulate it and the problems associated with having too much organic matter content. When attempting to quantify the organic matter in your soil, Moeller emphasizes maintaining a consistent sampling depth. If your sampling depth is too varied, your organic matter dilution will be off when sending it to the lab.

Moeller also discussed sand topdressing, describing it as being just as crucial to plant health as mowing, watering, and fertilizing. He recommended that your topdressing frequency match the growth rate of your turf and target around 20 to 40 cubic feet of sand per 1,000 sq. ft. per year. Moeller recommended that, in season, about .75 to 1 cubic foot of sand per 1,000 sq. ft. should be applied. This equals approximately 100 lbs. of dry sand per 1,000 sq. ft.

Moeller next touched on aerification. He noted there are many challenges with cultivation practices, including golfer complaints, lost revenue, and turf injury. The USGA has developed an Aeration Data-Driven Decision Model that can help determine the best time for your golf course to aerify based on a multitude of factors. He recommends that you contact your local USGA agronomist for more information or to obtain a copy of the model.

Moeller also discussed solid-tine aeration practices, suggesting that you stay away from this practice, unless you are on an all-

sand-based putting green and your growth and topdressing are dialed in and on point.

Deep-soil modification can alleviate compaction and promote deeper rooting, improve drainage, and infuse sand into the profile. Moeller emphasizes the importance of backfilling the holes with clean sand.

Some golf courses have reported benefits of using the Air2G2, but it is, by no means, a replacement for core aerification. With all the cultivation options out there, Moeller drove home the point that we need to monitor trends to make an educated decision on which program is right for our specific golf course. There is no "one size fits all" program when it comes to root-zone management.

For further information, Adam Moeller can be reached at amoeller@usga.org or at 518-587-6070.

Anthony Minniti, a member of the Tee to Green Editorial Committee, is an assistant superintendent at The Creek in Locust Valley, NY.

Special Thanks to Our 2018 Winter Seminar Exhibitors

We'd like to thank all the vendors who participated in this year's Winter Seminar. As a show of appreciation, we're listing the exhibitors here, along with their areas of specialty and contact information.

When the opportunity arises, we hope you'll show these contractors and suppliers the same support they've shown us during our Winter Seminar—and throughout the year.

A. G. Enterprises

Rick Gordon
Staff Uniforms
201-488-1276
merrick160@aol.com

Aquatrols, Inc.

Tom Valentine
Soil & Water Quality Management
Solutions
609-841-2077
tvalentine@aquatrols.com

BASF

Pete Jacobson
Chemical Company
919-530-9062
peter.jacobson@basf.com

Bayer Environmental Science

Dave Sylvester
Plant Protectants
860-841-3173
david.sylvester@bayer.com

Cushman/E-Z-GO

Nick Roberto
845-637-7641
nroberto@textron.com

DeLea Sod Farms

Scott Geiser
High-Quality Sod & Root Zone Mixes
for Golf Courses
800-344-7637
sgeiser@deleasod.com

DryJect North East, LLC

Steve Jordan
DryJect & Aeration Specialists
914-602-2857
Jordan781@msn.com

Emerald Tree & Shrub Care, Inc.

Steve Farrelly & Kevin Wyatt
914-725-0441
steve@emeraldtreecare.com

Executive Turf / Synergy Turf Supply

Ken Gentile
Golf Course Supplies
203-496-0891
executiveturf@aol.com

Finch Services

John Deere Golf Dealer
631-891-2425
APesce@finchinc.com

Fisher & Son, Co.

Mike Weber
Lawn Care & Landscape
347-486-0480
mweber@fisherandson.com

Grass Roots Turf Products, Inc.

Ryan Avery
Golf Course Supplies
973-252-6634
ryan.avery@GRTurf.com

Greensight Agronomics

Justin McClellan, CMO
Automated Imaging & Analysis
203-550-2113
justin@greensighttag.com

Harrell's LLC

Scott Tretera
Golf Course Supplies
914-262-8638
stretera@harrells.com

Metro Turf Specialists

Scott Apgar
Golf Course Supplies
203-748-4653
scott.apgar@metroturfspecialists.com

Ocean Organics

Kevin Collins
914-621-1151
kevin@oceanorganics.com

Palisades Fuel

Frank Muggeo
914-945-0645
fmuggeo@palisadesfuel.com

Plant Food Company, Inc.

Dave Conrad
The Liquid Fertilizer Experts
800-562-1291
dconrad@plantfoodco.com

Playbooks for Golf

Golf Course Coverage System,
Conditions Software Platform,
Golf Course Field Guides, ezPins,
Career Development
Greg Wojick: 203-219-0254
gwojick@goplaybooks.com
Matt Leverich: 913-221-8052
mleverich@goplaybooks.com

Seeton Turf Warehouse

Brian Bontemps
Turf Care Products
845-239-7959
brianbontemps@seetonturf.com

Steven Willand, Inc.

Scott Willand
A Jacobsen Golf & Turf Equipment
Dealer
973-579-5656
swilland@stevenwillandinc.com

Synergy Turf Supply

Bobby Steinman, CGCS
Agronomic Professionals
860-488-2822
Bobby7777@aol.com

Tanto Irrigation, LLC

Bill Bartels
Irrigation Installation Services
914-347-5151
wbartels@tantoirrigation.com

The Care of Trees

Michael Cook
Entire Tree Care Company
914-345-8733
mcook@thecareoftrees.com

Tom Irwin, Inc

Jeff Houde
Turf Care Products
203-731-1776
jeff@tomirwin.com

Turf Products LLC

Pat Cragin
Toro Irrigation & Equipment
860-874-2812
pcragin@turfproductscorp.com

Valley Green, Inc

Greg Moran
Landscape & Golf Supplies
203-831-9748
g.moran@valleygreenusa.com

Westchester Tractor, Inc.

John Apple
Equipment Dealer
845-278-7766
www.tractor.com

Westchester Turf Supply, Inc.

Robert Lippman
Golf Course Supplies
914-447-6257
bobwestturf@comcast.net

Wilfred MacDonald

Grounds Maintenance Equipment & Parts
Glenn Gallion
201-954-5878
ggwilmac@aol.com

William A. Kelly & Company

Charity Kelly
General Contractor Management Co.
914-232-3191
wakelly@wakellyco.com

Winfield Solutions

Crop Protection Products
Robert Saunders
203-249-5059
rssaunders@landolakes.com

Meet Your 2018 MetGCSA Board



From left to right: Treasurer Rob Alonzi of Fenway GC; Vice President Ken Benoit, CGCS, of GlenArbor GC; Class C Rep Dave Peterson of Brae Burn CC; Past President Glen Dube, CGCS, of Centennial GC; President David Dudones of Westchester CC; Jim Pavonetti, CGCS, of Fairview CC; Jesse Shannon, CGCS, of Manhattan Woods GC; Steve Loughran of Rock Ridge CC; Class AF Rep Scott Tretera of Harrell's LLC; Brett Chapin of Redding CC; Mike McCall, CGCS, Executive Director; Dan Rogers of Wykagyl CC; Mike Brunelle, CGCS, of Upper Montclair CC. Missing from photo: Steve Wickstrom of Burning Tree CC.

Your MetGCSA Committee Chairs At-a-Glance

We've provided a list of each of the MetGCSA's 2018 committee chairs, including their phone numbers and emails. Please feel free to contact any of them with questions, comments, or helpful suggestions.

We would like to welcome Steve Wickstrom of Burning Tree Country Club and Jesse Shannon of Manhattan Woods Golf Club to the board and thank Brian Chapin for his service to the board for the past two years. Brian has accepted a superintendent's position at Rolling Green Golf Club in Springfield, PA. Best of luck, Brian!

Awards Committee

Glen Dube, CGCS
Centennial GC
glendube1@gmail.com
845-279-8960 / Cell 845-803-1020

Bylaws Committee

Ken Benoit, CGCS
GlenArbor GC
kbenoit@glenarborclub.com
914-241-0700 / Cell 914-760-3575

Club Relations Committee

Glen Dube, CGCS
Centennial GC
glendube1@gmail.com
845-279-8960 / Cell 845-803-1020

Communications Committee

Jim Pavonetti, CGCS (Tee to Green)
Fairview CC
pavonettij@yahoo.com
203-531-8910 / Cell 203-223-5403
Dan Rogers (Advertising)
Wykagyl CC
drogers@wykagylcc.org
914-400-5918 / Cell 914-400-5918

Steve Wickstrom (Website)

Burning Tree CC
stevewickstrom@hotmail.com
Cell 586-945-5212

Education Committee

Mike Brunelle, CGCS
Upper Montclair CC
mbrunelle@uppermontclaircc.com
973-777-6710 / Cell 973-417-8199

Environmental Committee

Jim Pavonetti, CGCS
Fairview CC
pavonettij@yahoo.com
203-531-8910 / Cell 203-223-5403
Ken Benoit, CGCS
GlenArbor GC
kbenoit@glenarborclub.com
914-241-0700 / Cell 914-760-3575

Government Relations Committee

Rob Alonzi (Tri-State)
Fenway GC
ralonzijr@hotmail.com
914-472-1467 / Cell 914-484-0373
Brett Chapin (CT)
Redding CC
green@reddingcc.org
203-938-9640 / Cell 203-885-3109
Mike Brunelle, CGCS (NJ)
Upper Montclair CC
mbrunelle@uppermontclaircc.com
973-777-6710 / Cell 973-417-8199

Investment Committee

Ken Benoit, CGCS
GlenArbor GC
kbenoit@glenarborclub.com
914-241-0700 / Cell 914-760-3575

Long-Range Planning & Steering Committee

Glen Dube, CGCS
Centennial GC
glendube1@gmail.com
845-279-8960 / Cell 845-803-1020

Membership Committee

Jesse Shannon, CGCS
Manhattan Woods GC
j.shannon@mwgconline.com
845-627-0093 / Cell 845-521-2668

Scholarship & Research Committee

Ken Benoit, CGCS
GlenArbor GC
kbenoit@glenarborclub.com
914-241-0700 / Cell 914-760-3575
Rob Alonzi (Tri-State)
Fenway GC
ralonzijr@hotmail.com
914-472-1467 / Cell 914-484-0373

Social & Welfare Committee

Brett Chapin
Redding CC
green@reddingcc.org
203-938-9640 / Cell 203-885-3109

Tournament Committee

Steve Loughran
Rock Ridge CC
sloughran17@yahoo.com
203-426-2106 / Cell 917-270-2925
Jesse Shannon, CGCS
Manhattan Woods GC
j.shannon@mwgconline.com
845-627-0093 / Cell 845-521-2668

National News

Davis Elected 82nd President of GCSAA

Members Elect New Board of Directors at Annual Meeting

Darren Davis, CGCS, golf course superintendent at Olde Florida GC in Naples, FL, became GCSAA's 82nd president at the association's Annual Meeting held February 8 at the Golf Industry Show in San Antonio, TX.

A 28-year member of GCSAA, Davis has served on the association's board of directors since 2012. He is a past president of the Everglades GCSA and a past president of the Florida GCSA and Florida Turfgrass Association. He is currently a director of the Musser International Turfgrass Foundation. In 2004, the FGCSA honored him with its Distinguished Service Award, and in 2011 the FTGA presented Davis with the Wreath of Grass, the association's highest award.

A native of Tallahassee, FL, he earned a turfgrass management certificate from Penn State University, completed an associate's degree from Tallahassee Community Col-

lege, and a B.A. in communications from Florida Gulf Coast University.

"Becoming president is a privilege that I don't take lightly," said Davis. "I hope I am able to give the association back even a fraction of what it's given to me."

GCSAA Board of Directors at a Glance

President

Darren Davis, CGCS, superintendent at Olde Florida GC in Naples, FL

Vice President

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

Secretary/Treasurer

John R. Fulling Jr., CGCS, grounds and facilities manager at Kalamazoo (MI) CC

Directors

• **Kevin P. Breen**, CGCS, superintendent at La Rinconada CC, Los Gatos, CA

Darren Davis, CGCS

• **Kevin P. Sunderman**, director of grounds at Isla Del Sol Yacht & CC, St. Petersburg, FL

• **T.A. Barker**, CGCS, superintendent at Fore Lakes GC Taylorsville, UT

• **Jeff L. White**, CGCS, superintendent at Indian Hills CC, Prairie Village, KS

• **Mark F. Jordan**, CGCS, natural resources leader at Westfield Group CC, Westfield Center, OH

Immediate Past President

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

Peter J. Grass, CGCS, golf course superintendent at Hilands GC in Billings, MT, retires from the board after serving the last year as immediate past president.

National Scorecard

At this year's GCSAA Golf Championship at the 2018 Golf Industry Show, San Antonio played host to participants competing in 26 Net and Gross GCSAA Tournaments. MetGCSA members produced a number of highly respectable finishes. Congratulations to the following MetGCSA members on their fine play.

GCSAA National Championship

Out of the strong field of 84 competitors, Matt Cowan from The Hills of Lakeway was able to hold off Michael Stieler from Spring Creek Golf & CC and Seth Strickland from Miami Shores CC by one shot to win the Championship for a second time with a two-day total of two over par.

Golf Classic

The Golf Classic took place on Sunday and

Respectable Finishes for MetGCSA

by Steve Loughran

Monday at different host sites, including TPC Oaks, TPC Canyon, Cordillera Ranch, and La Cantera Resort. Our MetGCSA participants played hard both days and a few were rewarded with some high finishes.

In the Second Flight, Blake Halderman of Brae Burn CC claimed Second Place Gross.

In the Fourth Flight, Jonathan Heywood of Morris County GC earned himself Third Place Net.

In the Senior Division Second Flight, Les Kennedy of Blind Brook Club finished First Place Net.

In the AF Flight, Doug Middleton of Ocean Organics took Second Place Gross.

Team Events

In the **Four-Ball Competition**, several MetGCSA members teamed up with one of the more notable finishes by veteran part-

ners Sean Cain of Sunningdale CC and Stephen Rabideau of Winged Foot GC, who claimed Sixth Place Net.

In the **Chapter Team** event, the MetGCSA Net Team included Rob Alonzi of Fenway, David Dudones of Westchester, Tim O'Neill of CC of Darien, Jeff Wentworth of Pelham, and Bob Nielsen of Bedford Golf & Tennis. The MetGCSA Gross Team comprised Tom Ashfield of Quaker Ridge, Sean Cain of Sunningdale, Tony Hooks of Due Process, Steve Loughran of Rock Ridge, and Steve Whipple of West Point.

Both teams played well but ended up falling to the middle of the field. The Lone Star GCSA won the Gross Division, while the Midwest AGCSA took the Net Division.

Steve Loughran, Tournament Committee co-chair, is superintendent of Rock Ridge CC in Newtown, CT.



Luck of the Draw: Five Take Home Prizes in Annual Bill Caputi Scholarship

This year's Annual Bill Caputi Scholarship Raffle raised an admirable sum for the Met's Scholarship Fund and awarded \$4,000 in cash prizes to five lucky ticket holders.

The raffle is the prime source of the scholarship awards we distribute to deserving Met member dependents each year.

Many thanks to all who contributed and also to those who sold tickets for this worthwhile fundraiser. Congratulations to our \$2,000-grand-prize winner, **Kevin Doyle**, GCSAA's Northeast Rep. His ticket was sold by Met Tournament Committee Co-Chair and Rock Ridge Superintendent Steve Loughran.

The four \$500 prize winners were:

• **Rich LaBar Jr.**, LaBar Golf Renovations. His ticket was sold by Met Treasurer and Fenway Superintendent Rob Alonzi.

• **Ian Robichaud**, Winged Foot Golf Club. His ticket was sold by The Care of Trees' Mike Cook.

• **Shayna Apgar**, wife of Metro Turf Specialists' Rich Apgar. His ticket was sold by Met President and Westchester Superintendent David Dudones.

• **Jim Schell**, Oak Hills Park Golf Course. His ticket was sold by Met VP and Glen Arbor Superintendent Ken Benoit.

New Members

Please join us in welcoming the following new MetGCSA members:

- **Justin Adams**, Class C, Upper Montclair Country Club, Clifton, NJ
- **Michael Barlow**, Class C, Woodway Country Club, Darien, CT
- **Alan Jeffrey**, Class C, Oak Hills Park Golf Course, Norwalk, CT
- **John Paul MacPherson IV**, Class C, The Apawamis Club, Rye, NY
- **Trevor May**, Class C, The Stanwich Club, Greenwich, CT
- **Michael McCormick**, Class A, The Apawamis Club, Rye, NY
- **Frank Muggeo**, Class AF, Palisades Fuel, Inc., Ossining, NY
- **Ethan Spatol**, Class C, Winged Foot Golf Club, Mamaroneck, NY
- **Jesse Sutton**, Class C, Pelham Country Club, Pelham Manor, NY
- **Brent Thompson**, Class A, Silo Ridge Field Club, Armenia, NY
- **Michael Tross**, Class C, The Apawamis Club, Rye, NY
- **Andrew Wilson**, Class A, Bethpage State Park, Farmingdale, NY

Members on the Move

- **Brian Chapin** is the new superintendent at Rolling Green Golf Club in Springfield, PA. Previous position: Superintendent at Paramount Country Club in New City, NY.
- **Matt Kerens** is the new superintendent at Paramount Country Club in New City, NY. Previous position: Assistant superintendent at Paramount Country Club.

Birth

Congratulations and best wishes to Pelham Bay/Split Rock Golf Course Superintendent **George Chavez** and his wife, Lucila, on the birth of their daughter, Maia, born 8 lbs., 7 ozs. on January 31.

Kudos

Tee to Green Editor and Fairview Country Club Superintendent **Jim Pavonetti** was awarded the 2017 Environmental Leaders in Golf Chapter Award for Private Courses, for the Metropolitan Golf Course Superintendents Association. This award is presented annually by *Golf Digest* and the GCSAA in recognition of overall course management

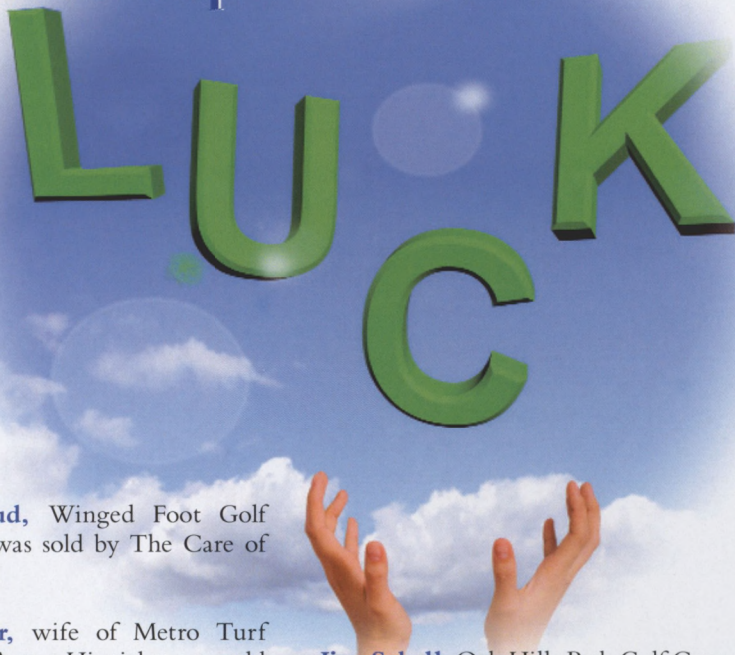
excellence and best management practices in the areas of water conservation, water quality management, energy conservation, pollution prevention, waste management, wildlife and habitat conservation, communication and outreach and leadership.

This is the fifth time that Jim has received this prestigious award, four times while at Fairview Country Club. Way to go, Jim! Congratulations!

In Sympathy

It is with great sorrow that we announce the passing of **Joe Camberato** on January 2. He was 83. Joe one of the first members of our association, joining the MetGCSA in 1959. He was the superintendent at Sleepy Hollow Country Club for 40 years, until his retirement in 1997. All who had the pleasure of knowing Joe will remember him for his fun-loving and welcoming nature. Our deepest sympathy to his wife, Barbara, and family.

Donations may be made in Joe's memory to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.



Pelham to Host Season-Opening Dave Mahoney Two-Ball Qualifier

by Kevin Collins

On April 30, Jeff Wentworth and Pelham Country Club will host the 2018 Dave Mahoney Two-Ball Qualifier. Joining the ranks of the centenarians, Pelham is celebrating its 109th anniversary at its present site.

Designed by Devereux Emmet as a championship course, it opened for play in 1921. Two years later, in 1923, Pelham made history when it hosted one of the most memorable PGA Championships on record. Gene "The Squire" Sarazen defeated Walter Hagen on the 38th hole, notching a birdie on the last hole to win what is called the best match play championship ever.

In the late 1950s, the New England Thruway was routed through the course forcing the club to change some of its holes. The club hired Emmet's associate, Architect Alfred Tull, to reconstruct the course on the club's unused land.

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

On the Road to Pelham

Jeff's career began in 1988 as a student intern at Myopia Hunt Club in Hamilton, MA. During stints at New Jersey's Ridgewood Country Club and Maryland's Columbia Country Club, Jeff completed the two-year turf program at Stockbridge and a B.S. in Urban Forestry from UMass in 1991. That same year, Jeff embarked on a four-year term as an assistant at Westchester Country Club.

"When I came to Westchester, then Superintendent Patty Knaggs hired me," Jeff remembers. "There had to be more than 50 applicants for the job, and I felt fortunate that Patty saw something in me and gave me a chance. She was tough, but fair."

Jeff also spent time under the tutelage of Joe Alonzi, who was next in line as superintendent. "I learned a lot from Joe," says Jeff. "Working at Westchester was a great opportunity, and the experience of preparing the course for four PGA events and the best players in the world was priceless. I con-

sider all the superintendents I worked with mentors, but my time at Westchester was special."

One life lesson, in particular, that has stayed with Jeff till this day was how effectively Joe communicated with the membership: "We were doing a spray application on the South Course," recalls Jeff, "and a woman came up to Joe, clearly worked up about the fact that we were spraying. Joe calmly told her that he really didn't like to spray but that it was necessary to do at times. The woman's whole demeanor changed and she calmed down without Joe going through a whole discourse about what he was doing and why he was doing it. That has stayed with me to this day," adds Jeff. "Less is more."

Pelham Turns Over Every Stone

Pelham Country Club's superintendent since 1994, Jeff has raised the bar each year. Those who haven't played Pelham in a while, will be in for a treat. The numerous projects and improvements made to the course during Jeff's tenure are nothing short of impressive.

He's renovated fairways and bunkers, reconstructed tees, restored the greens to their original dimensions, installed a new irrigation system, and constructed an 11,000-square-foot maintenance facility. In 2011, the club added a new practice area with three USGA-spec chipping greens and practice fairway.

And yes, there's more. In 2014, Jeff embarked on a new master plan for the golf course under the supervision of Architect Mike DeVries. This past season, the 17th and 18th greens underwent a greens expansion with the addition of new bunkers and an expanded pond adjacent to number 18.

Leaving no stone unturned, Pelham is still going at it. Starting in June 2019, the club will close five holes to renovate and reroute the holes built during the 1950s thruway expansion. When all the dirt is moved and shaped, the new turf will be established from seed. As if all that is not enough, a new irrigation reservoir will be built along with a flood-control waterway. With the expanded holding ponds, Pelham will no longer have to rely on municipal water,



Jeff Wentworth, CGCS

which will amount to a savings of more than \$100,000 annually!

Beyond the Job

Jeff's a believer in giving back to the profession. He's been an active member of the Met, serving on the board and on numerous committees over the years. Jeff is proud of his involvement in the UMass Alumni Turf Group. As a founding member, he was instrumental in bringing together other graduates of the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at UMass, who are committed to supporting the turf profession through raising funds to further research and education. Jeff also brings his turf management expertise to the Village of Pelham Manor, where he consults pro bono.

When not immersed in work, Jeff likes to travel with his first love and wife of 21 years, Mimi. "We try to take one big trip a year," says Jeff, noting that he and Mimi have visited more than 50 countries, most recently stopping in on Mimi's family in Germany and then tacking on a side trip to Austria.

"Traveling puts things in perspective for me," says Jeff. "It gives me a chance to recharge and see how others live."

Jeff also enjoys golfing and skiing. "I don't do either sport as well as I used to," laments Jeff, "but I still get out there and do them as much as possible."

Pelham is a seasoned host of Met events, but hosting the Dave Mahoney Two-Ball Qualifier is particularly meaningful for Jeff. "Dave was a good friend," says Jeff, "I still have his cell number in my contacts. I just haven't had the heart to delete it. So I could not be more pleased to host this event in Dave's memory."

April 30 will be here before you know it, and both Jeff and Pelham Country Club look forward to seeing you all for this season-opening event!

Kevin Collins, a member to the Tee to Green Editorial Committee, is the Northeast & Mid-Atlantic Territory Manager for Ocean Organics.

Patron Directory

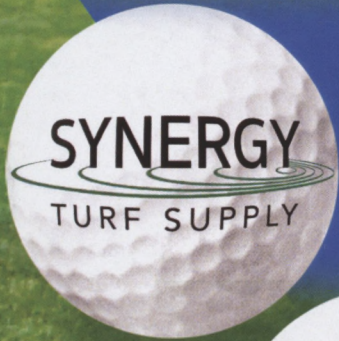
Patrons listed on this page are supporting our association. You are encouraged to support them.

- ★ **A.G. Enterprises**
Rick Gordon ~ Staff Uniforms
201-488-1276 / Fax: 201-489-5830
merrick160@gmail.com
www.AGEnterprisesonline.com
- ★ **All Pro Horticulture, Inc.**
80 East Gates Avenue
Lindenhurst, NY 11757
John Seib
631-789-6680 / Fax: 631-789-5711
john@allprohort.com
- Aquatrols Corp. of America**
"The World Leader in Soil
Surfactants & Wetting Agents"
1273 Imperial Way
Paulsboro, NJ 08066
800-257-7797
info@aquatrols.com
- ★ **Atlantic Golf & Turf**
9 Industrial Boulevard
Turner Falls, MA 01376
John Garcia: 203-996-6267
john@atlanticgolfturf.com
- ★ **BASF**
"Means Better Results ... Which
Means Better Turf"
Peter Jacobson: 919-530-9062
peter.jacobson@basf.com
- ★ **Bayer U.S.**
"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
- ★ **Carriere Materials, LLC**
U.S. Silica Topdressing & Bunker
Sand, VFB Bunker Sand & Partac
Topdressing
Bill Carriere: 914-939-4884
bc1000@verizon.net
- Club Car CT /
Metropolitan NY**
72 Grays Bridge Road
Brookfield, CT 06804
Paul Schwab: 203-943-6898
Ofc: 203-740-1458
Fax: 203-740-2311
Paul_Schwab@clubcar.com
- ★ **Cushman ~ E-Z-GO**
Nick Roberto: 845-637-7641
Reed Williams: 516-662-3554
Chris Larizza: 203-605-0554
- DeLea Sod Farms**
Turf, Topdressing & Root Zone
Scott Geiser: 631-484-1211
sgeiser@deleasod.com
Dylan Wyatt: 631-796-6757
dwatt@deleasod.com
- ★ **Double 'D' Turf, LLC**
Drill & Fill Specialist
86 Bergen Mills Road
Monroe Township, NJ 08831
Dennis DeSanctis Sr. / Dennis
DeSanctis Jr.: 732-241-7378
dennisjr@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 / Synergy Turf &
Pocono Turf Supply**
"Micro Carbon Technology"
Ken Gentile: 203-496-0891
executiveturfproducts@gmail.com
humagroturf.com
- ★ **Fisher and Son Company**
"Green Industry Professionals 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 Avery / Keith Kubik
Ofc: 973-252-6634
www.GRIturf.com / sales@GRIturf.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
- KATEN CONSULTING**
Professionalism & Communication
Training Programs
Laura Katen / Ron Katen
914-468-0892 / 914-468-0801
instructions@katenconsulting.com
www.katenconsulting.com
- ★ **LGR, LLC ~ 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**
"Your Trusted Northeast John Deere
Golf Dealer"
Eric Berg / Jeff Sutphen / Jim Calladio /
Kevin Reinke
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@lbgct.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
- ★ **NuFarm Americas, Inc.**
"Helping the World to Grow a Better
Tomorrow"
Bryan Bolehala: 570-686-1845
Jim Santoro: 508-207-2094
- ★ **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,
Conditions App, Golf Course
Field Guides, ezPins, Consulting, Career
Development, Professional Search Services
Greg Wojcik: 203-219-0254
Matt Leverich: 913-221-8052
www.goplaybooks.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**
"Stronger Together"
Chad Mathieu: 914-539-5675
cmathieu@siteone.com
- Soil Solutions, LLC ~
Aerification Professionals**
Anthony Decicco / John Decicco
7 Whittemore Place
Ryebrook, NY 10573
914-393-0659 / Fax: 914-939-5010
- ★ **Steven Willand, Inc.**
"Quality Turf Equipment"
4 Production Drive
Brookfield, CT 06804
George Corgan: 914-213-3622
georgecorgan@stevenwillandinc.com
www.switurf.com
- ★ **Synergy Turf Supply /
Pocono Turf Supply**
"Agronomic Professionals"
Bobby Steinman, CGCS: 860-488-2822
bobby7777@aol.com
Ken Gentile: 203-496-0891
- ★ **Syngenta**
"Manufacturer of Plant Protection
Products"
John Bresnahan: 413-333-9914
john.bresnahan@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
- ★ **Tom Irwin Inc.**
"With Tom Irwin,
You're 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: 845-901-1358
Ofc: 203-831-9748
g.moran@valleygreenusa.com
- ★ **Westchester Tractor, Inc.**
60 International Boulevard
Brewster, NY 10509
John Apple / Charlie Siemers
845-278-7766
www.wttractor.com
- ★ **Westchester Turf Supply, Inc.**
"Proudly Serving the MetGCSA
Since 1976"
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"
Glenn Gallion
Ofc: 888-831-0891
Fax: 973-487-1333
Sales@wilfredmacdonald.com
- William A. Kelly and
Company**
"Looking to Expand? Call Kelly!"
87 Bedford Road
Katonah, NY 10536
Charity Kelly: 914-232-3191
charity@wakellyco.com
www.wakellyco.com
- ★ **Winfield Solutions, Inc.**
"Service, Solutions, Insight"
Rob Saunders: 203-249-5059
Jim Masone: 516-818-9852
www.winfieldpro.com

★ Denotes MetGCSA member

Thank You to Our Major Sponsors for Their Support

Ace Sponsors



Double Eagle Sponsors

