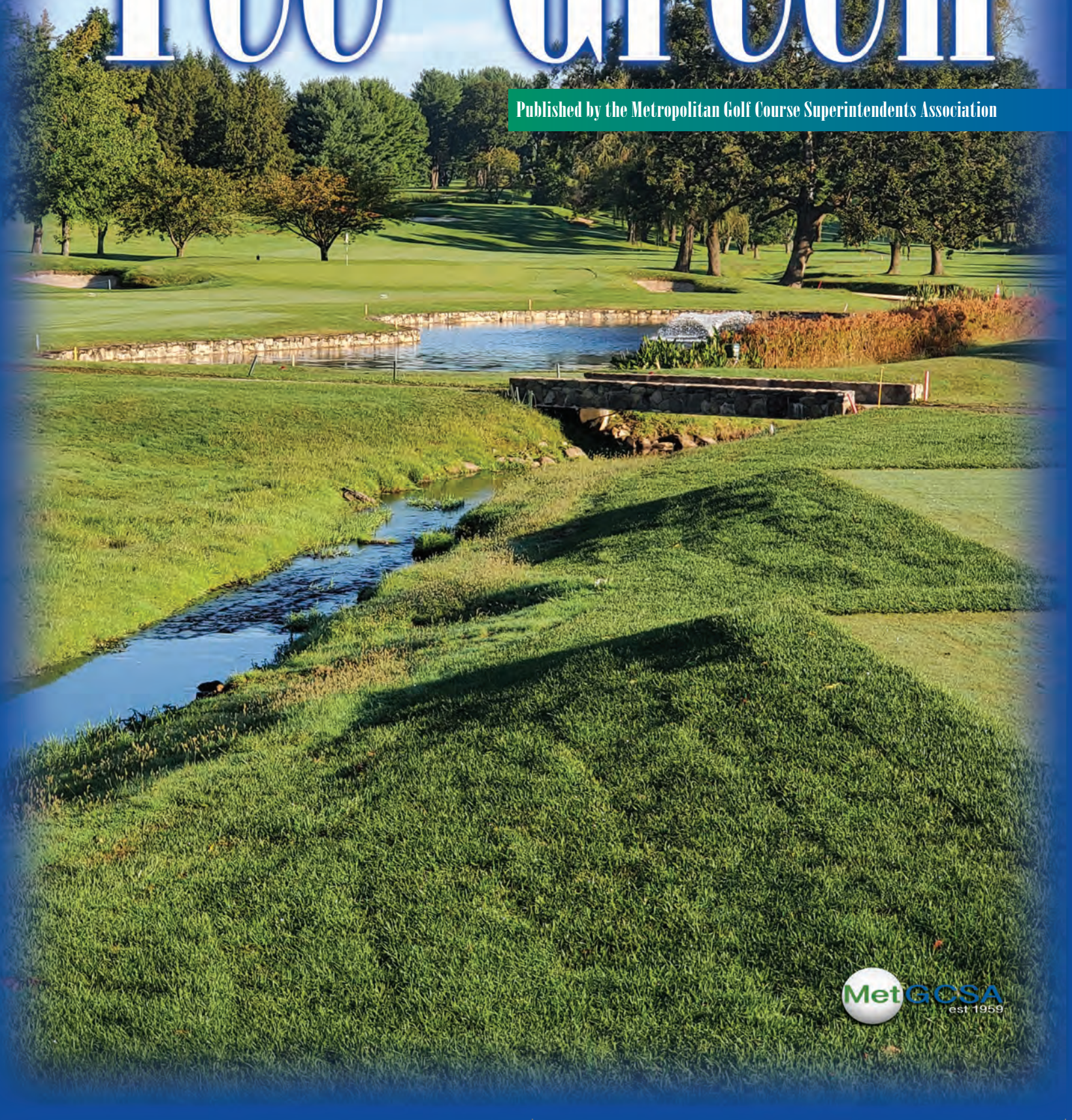


August/September/October 2021
VOLUME 52 NUMBER 3

Tee To Green

Published by the Metropolitan Golf Course Superintendents Association



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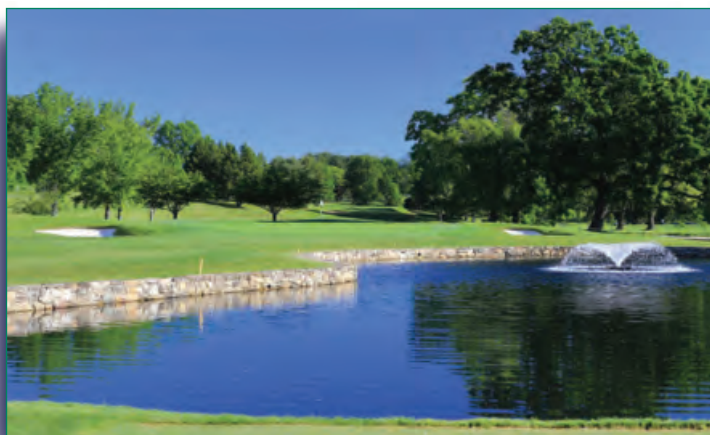
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TEE TO GREEN is published bimonthly by the Metropolitan Golf
Course Superintendents Association
49 Knollwood Road, Elmsford, NY 10523-2819
914-347-4653, FAX: 914-347-3437, METGCSA.ORG
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Tee to Green



Mt. Kisco Country Club

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President's Message

Singing the Praises of Our Unsung Heroes

W

ith morning temperatures in the 40s and 50s, it certainly feels like the end of the golf season. It's amazing how fast we forget the rains, heat, humidity, and grind of the season that we all just endured.

It seems like every season has its challenges. After a season like 2021, that followed 2020, it is important to recognize the people who are the unsung heroes of the industry . . . our assistant golf course superintendents, equipment technicians, and grounds staff. These are the people who grind alongside of us, day in and day out. Without these dedicated people, it would be impossible to attain the goals of our individual properties and provide our memberships with the conditioning and enjoyment that is expected. I certainly appreciate all the hard work and dedication my staff gave this year—and give every year. A big thank you to my staff and all the golf course maintenance staffs out there!

Not-to-Be-Missed Educational Opportunities

With most of our autumn golf events behind us, we still have in-person educational events to look forward to, starting with our joint MetGCSA and Connecticut AGCS Fall Seminar, which will be hosted by Jason Meersman on November 11 at The Patterson Club. At this year's seminar, we will hear from John Daniels, the USGA's newly hired northeast regional agronomist, who will offer an insightful review of the 2021 golf season along with practical advice on planning for the 2022 season. We can also look forward to a presentation on golf course tree health and maintenance techniques by Bert Cregg, professor of tree physiology at Michigan State University.

Our next opportunity for professional learning is our January 12 Winter Seminar hosted once again by David Dudones at Westchester Country Club. With the return of our exhibitor booths and in-person speakers, this promises to be a not-to-be-missed educational opportunity. And as always, we can look forward to hearing from the three



Rob Alonzi
MetGCSA President

people who will receive our most prestigious honors. Our John Reid Lifetime Achievement Award will go to Peter Jacobsen, one of golf's most colorful personalities. Our Sherwood A. Moore Award will be presented to Rockrimmon Superintendent Tony Girardi, who is also the subject of this issue's feature article. And last, but not least, Winged Foot Golf Club Superintendent Stephen Rabideau will be honored with this year's Distinguished Member Award.

Another must-attend upcoming event is our fast-approaching Annual Meeting on November 4 at Rye Grill & Bar. Attending members will be updated on association business and vote for the new Board of Directors.

I hope you will take advantage of these special opportunities to talk turf with your peers and sponsors, and to pick up information useful in enhancing your maintenance practices and operation. I'm looking forward to seeing more of you at our great lineup of upcoming events.

Rob Alonzi
President

Tee to Green

Congratulations to the 2021 Sherwood A. Moore Award Winner, Tony Girardi

by Scott Niven, CGCS





he MetGCSA superintendent's Sherwood A. Moore Award is conferred on professionals who demonstrate above-and-beyond commitment and actions that promote the image and reputation of golf course superintendents. This year's winner, Rockrimmon Superintendent Tony Girardi, has spent a lifetime in the above-and-beyond realm—and he's still going!

Catching the Bug

A native of Narragansett, RI, Tony spent his high school summers running a successful landscaping business with his brother, Michael. He then enrolled at the University of Rhode Island (URI) as a business major. His plans took a major turn, though, during a summer break.

"Scott Cybulski, a childhood friend and superintendent who was enrolled in URI's turf school, convinced me to work with him one summer on a golf course," Tony recalls. "We signed on with Tim O'Neill at The Country Club of Darien. It was an awesome experience. I guess you could say I caught the bug. Tim was instrumental in kickstarting my golf course career and is still a mentor of mine to this day."

After the summer at Darien, Tony immediately transferred into URI's highly regarded turfgrass program. He completed his B.S. in turfgrass management in 1992, having worked another season with Tim, and then moved across town to take an assistant's job at the Woodway Country Club. He spent the next three years working for then Superintendent Larry Pakkala.

"I lucked out with that first job," Tony says. "It was tough work, but I had the good fortune of learning from one of the best. I wouldn't change one thing about my experience as an assistant at Woodway."

In the Spring of 1995, Tony landed his current position as superintendent of Rockrimmon Country Club, succeeding Gregg Stanley. He lives in a lovely home on the club property, which has the unique distinction of having 17 holes in New York and one hole in Connecticut.

"I think that qualifies us as a single, multi-state golf course," Tony jokes.

Rockrimmon's Tony Girardi (right) and Andrew Kerr, course manager at Surbiton Golf Club in London, receive their Master Greenkeeper Certificate at the 2019 BIGGA Conference.



Building Up and Giving Back

During his 27-year tenure at Rockrimmon, Tony has renovated or rebuilt nearly all facets of the golf course. Many of those projects were based on a master plan developed by golf course architect Roger Rulewich. All parts of the course were improved, including multiple green complexes, the reconstruction of every tee complex, the installation of new cart paths, the complete renovation of all bunkers, and the installation of a state-of-the-art Rain Bird irrigation system. Tony is quick to credit the success of these many projects to the tremendous support he has gotten from the membership at Rockrimmon.

"The members here at Rockrimmon have a true passion for their course and put a premium on maintaining the highest quality conditions," Tony says. "My crew and I didn't want to let them down. We have a veteran staff at Rockrimmon. Many have been here since Gregg's days, and worked hard doing most of the construction work in-house."

After two years at Rockrimmon, Tony began his long history of giving back to the

industry he loves. He joined the MetGCSA Board of Directors and spent 15 years rising through the chairs to become president in 2009 and 2010.

"Being elected as a board member many years ago and then becoming president of our association are among the highlights of my career," Tony says. "It was extremely rewarding. I couldn't be prouder of our association and all we have accomplished together."

In Tony's lengthy tenure on the board, he chaired many committees, including the Tournament, Government Relations, Club Relations, Website, Membership, and Scholarship & Research committees. He also hosted several monthly meetings over the years. And although he enjoyed each committee assignment, Tony is most proud of his role in initiating and developing the Met's first-ever website.

"We started from scratch," he says. "It's been very satisfying to see the website develop into a powerful communication tool for the membership."

During his tenure as president of the Met, Tony was also active in supporting the New



Tony (left) strikes a pose at the BIGGA Conference with Gordon Muir, now retired director of greenkeeping at St. Andrews Links Trust in Scotland.



Tony and his wife, Christine, enjoy a visit to Bowen's Wharf in Newport, RI.

York State Best Management Practices (BMP) initiative. That ground-breaking template was developed to help golf course superintendents in New York fine-tune their operations for environmental compliance in all areas. The popular BMP guidelines are a work in progress that continues to evolve and improve.

A Passion for Lifelong Learning—and Contributing

In addition to his commitments to the MetGCSA, Tony took on a number of other positions to further contribute to the turfgrass industry. He served five years on the Water Wise Council of Westchester County, initiated years ago by Ted Horton. That committee was the driving force behind helping guarantee that the golf courses in Westchester County were allocated the irrigation water so desperately needed through the summer months. Tony has also served for 12 years, and continues to serve, on the Tri-State Research Foundation ris-

ing through the ranks to serve as its president in 2016/17. During his time in that position, important research from Rutgers University, through Dr. Albrecht Koppenhöfer and Dr. Bruce Clarke, helped solve difficult turfgrass problems such as the Annual Bluegrass Weevil and the devastating Anthracnose disease.

Anyone who knows him knows that Tony believes knowledge is power. He will sign up for any educational program that helps to further his knowledge base and promotes the well-being of the industry. For example, when he qualified for the GCSAA certification program, he wasted no time in successfully completing the certification process. He has maintained the Certified Golf Course Superintendent distinction for the past 22 years.

Apparently, the GCSAA certification wasn't enough for Tony, for when he heard of the Master Greenkeeper Certification, given by the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association (BIGGA), he enrolled right away. The certification pro-

gram in the UK is a challenging, three-phase process. First, the member must have worked in the industry for 10 years—with at least three years spent in the head greenkeeper, course manager, or superintendent role—while also earning at least 120 educational credits. Second, the member must pass an eight-section assessment of their golf course by two current Master Greenkeepers, and, third, a grueling two-day, six-hour written exam.

Tony proved up to the challenge. He passed all requirements by April of 2018 and was presented with the highly coveted Master Greenkeeper Certificate at the 2019 BIGGA conference in Harrogate, England. His accomplishment is highlighted by the fact that, at the time, he was just the 74th recipient worldwide of the Master Greenkeeper Certification. And he is the first ever in the New England area to achieve this distinction.

"I had heard of the Master Greenkeeper Program through the years, but it wasn't until I attended the BIGGA Turf Manage-

Upcoming Events

Not-to-Be Missed Events

ment Exhibition (BTME) in 2016 that I became more aware of the certification program and what it entailed,” Tony says. Although he claims it was one of the hardest things he’s had to earn, he always believed that you are never too old to learn. “I can safely say that I learned a great deal about golf course management from my peers in the UK and Ireland,” says Tony. “The Master Greenkeeper process was an invaluable experience that allowed me to grow both personally and professionally.” Tony has gone on to attend BIGGA’s BTME each of the past six years.

Yet Another Accomplishment: A Well-Balanced Life

Even though Tony is extremely busy with work and related association commitments, he makes sure to carve out plenty of time to spend with his wife of 25 years, Christine (also a Rhode Island native), and their three children: Nicholas, 23; Matthew, 22; and Rebecca, 20. Needless to say, Tony is also an avid golfer, never to miss a chance to play in the two-ball championship and at Met meetings. His favorite hobby is maintaining his impressive 200-gallon saltwater reef aquarium. The beautiful tropical fish are something to behold.

With just one more college student to graduate, Tony and Christine are approaching empty-nester status. That doesn’t mean they intend to slow down, though. Tony reports that they’ll be spending many summer weekends in Narragansett at their second home.

“Boating, fishing, clamming, and plenty of beach time,” Tony says. “Not to mention a career I love. Life is good. I guess you could say I’m glad I caught that bug all those years ago.”

Tony will be presented with the Sherwood A. Moore Award at the Winter Seminar on January 12, 2022.

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

Assistant Championship Battle of the Bridges

Tuesday, November 2

GlenArbor Golf Club

Assistant hosts: Keith Day, Luke Pittman

Superintendent: Joe Gikis

Annual Meeting

Thursday, November 4

Rye Grill & Bar

Rye, NY

MetGCSA/CAGCS Fall Seminar

Thursday, November 11

The Patterson Club

Fairfield, CT

Host: Jason Meersman

MetGCSA/HVGCSA Tailgate Party Army/UMass Football Game

Saturday, November 20

Watch for details!

MetGCSA Winter Seminar

Wednesday, January 12, 2022

Westchester Country Club

Rye, NY

Host: David Dudones

Nor’easter Ski Day

Thursday, February 24, 2022

Killington Ski Resort

Killington, VT

Industry Events

2021 GREEN EXPO Turf & Landscape Conference

Tuesday – Thursday, December 7 – 9

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.

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

2022 GCSAA Conference and Show

Saturday – Thursday February 5-10, 2022

San Diego, CA

Family Picnic Fun and Games

There were no jumpy castles or inflatable obstacle courses to entice families to the MetGCSA's annual family picnic after a one-year Covid hiatus, however that did not seem to matter as a community of fellowship seems to be the bedrock of MetGCSA's social events. On a mostly cloudy day in the low 80s, more than 60 members and their families made the trek to Bedford Village Memorial Park to share some downtime with the young ones in the park's idyllic setting.

In place of the historically popular large-scale portable amusements were an ever-talented face painter and balloon twister duo who did not disappoint. The park's playground accouterments were fully utilized, and, of course, no Met family picnic would be complete without the breaking of the piñata and the culinary talents of the Crafty Cue BBQ.

Mike McCall, MetGCSA Executive Director





New Members

Please join us in welcoming the following new MetGCSA members:

- **Timothy Berge**, Class AF, DAF Services, Windsor Locks, CT
- **Daniel Clarke**, Class AF, MTE Turf Equipment Solutions, Henrietta, NY
- **Shawn Houseknecht**, Class C, Fairview Country Club, Greenwich, CT

In Sympathy

We would like to offer our deepest sympathy to the family of **Bill Carriere** on his passing on September 23. He was 73. A member of the MetGCSA since 1975, Bill was owner of Carriere Materials, better known among veteran members as James Carriere & Sons, Inc. Well known and liked by the many members who worked with him, Bill will be greatly missed.

We would also like to offer our condolences to the family of **Paul Dillon** on his passing on July 20. He was 85. The MetGCSA's 2015 John Reid Lifetime Achievement Award winner, Paul was a prominent figure—and significant contributor—in the world of golf. A talented golf coach and formidable foe on the course, Dillon was perhaps best known as an accomplished artist, painting oil portraits of countless Met-area tournament champions and numerous golf greats. Among his portraits was one of our own Sherwood A. Moore, which hangs with other of his works of art on the walls of the MGA's Golf Central. Paul will live on in his many other works of art which can be seen on clubhouse walls around the world.



Congratulations to Our 2021 Scholarship Recipients!



At the Mosholu Parent/Child Scholarship Tournament, 9 of the 17 scholarship recipients were able to attend to receive their well-deserved awards. From left to right: Matt Severino and his daughter, Kathryn; Christine & Keith Kubik with their son, Timothy; Greg Gutter with his daughter, Kathrine; Justin Gabrenas with his daughter, Avery; Rob Dorsch with his daughters, Payton & Savanna; Chris Caporicci with his son, Luke; Patricia and Bill Jones with their son, Mathew, and daughter, Amanda.

After a year hiatus, the Scholarship Awards ceremony resumed as part of the Annual Parent/Child Scholarship Tournament at Mosholu Golf Course on August 3.

Mosholu is one of America's premier First Tee golf courses located in Bronx, NY, and a perfect venue for all of our members' children (young and old) to get out and enjoy the game that's so much a part of their parents' livelihood.

I, for one, had a great time with my family of four. We were among the 13 parent/child teams playing in a nine-hole scramble which seemed to be enjoyed by everyone. Now in its 10th year, the tournament was free to our members and was another great success thanks to Mosholu Superintendent Dave Moffett and his staff, who had the course in top form.

Congratulations to this year's tournament winners, Cherry Valley Club Superintendent Chris Caporicci and his son, Luke.

After golf, the golfers and guests enjoyed Food Truck dining while scholarship winners were presented with their awards.

This year, the Scholarship Committee had the pleasure of awarding scholarships to 17 members' sons and daughters. As always, the winning candidates were selected based on maturity, academic history, ambition, extracurricular activities, and effort exhibited in completing their application.

The Scholarship Award Winners

In addition to maintaining excellent GPAs, these students are all very involved in their communities and in numerous extracurricular activities. The Scholarship Committee and board are very pleased to recognize these deserving applicants with scholarship awards.

Please join me in congratulating our scholarship recipients—and their proud parents:

Luke Caporicci, son of Dana and Chris Caporicci of Cherry Valley Country Club, is attending Clemson University where he is majoring in Accounting and Finance.

Payton Dorsch, daughter of Misty and Rob Dorsch of Richter Park Golf Course, is attending University of Delaware where she

is majoring in Sports Business and Management.

Savanna Dorsch, daughter of Misty and Rob Dorsch of Richter Park Golf Course, is attending University of South Carolina and is majoring in Fashion Merchandising.

Margaret Drohen, daughter of Donalee and Andy Drohen of Koch Agronomic Services, is attending University of Massachusetts Amherst and pursuing a degree in Biology.

Rebecca Drohen, daughter of Donalee and Andy Drohen of Koch Agronomic Services, is attending Fairfield University and pursuing a career as a financial analyst.

Avery Gabrenas, daughter of Erica & Justin Gabrenas of Birchwood Country Club, is attending Western Connecticut State University and pursuing a career in Nursing.

Rebecca Girardi, daughter of Christine and Tony Girardi of Rockrimmon Country Club, is attending University of Rhode Island and is majoring in Business and Marketing.

Kathrine Gutter, daughter of Loren and Greg Gutter of The Care of Trees/Davey Co., is attending The New School, NYC, and is pursuing a degree in Screen Studies.

Amanda Jones, daughter of Patricia and Bill Jones of Friar's Head Golf Club, is attending Long Island University-Post, and is majoring in Theatre Arts.

Mathew Jones, son of Patricia and Bill Jones of Friar's Head Golf Club, is attending Stony Brook University, and is majoring in Bio Chemistry.

Jessica Krok, daughter of Denise and Rick Krok of Storr Tractor Company, is attending Weber State University where she is pursuing a degree in Communications.

Richard Krok, son of Denise and Rick Krok of Storr Tractor Company, is attending Utah State University where he is pursuing a degree in Environmental Engineering.

Timothy Kubik, son of Christine and Keith Kubick of Grass Roots, is attending Rutgers University where he is majoring in Engineering.

Daniel Lippman, son of Laura and Bob Lippman of Westchester Turf Supply, is attending Western Connecticut State University where he is majoring in Graphic Design/Illustration.

Miles McHugh, son of Kristine McHugh and Steve Jordan of DryJect North East, is attending Lycoming University and majoring in Biology.

Kathryn Severino, daughter of Kristin and Matt Severino of Scarsdale Golf Club, is attending Michigan State University and is pursuing a degree in Education and Child Development.

Nicholas Weiland, son of Shannon Mulligan and Jim Weiland of Connecticut Golf Club, is attending Worcester Polytechnic Institute and is pursuing a degree in Biomedical Engineering.

In addition to congratulating our 17 scholarship recipients, I'd like to recognize the Met Board, past and present, for initiating this wonderful scholarship fund. This year the board was able to provide over \$25,000 to the scholarship winners thanks to our Annual Bill Caputi Scholarship Raffle, the 50/50s at our monthly meetings, and last but not least, a portion of our dues. The Scholarship Committee also deserves a special thank you for their hard work and dedication in evaluating every application.

Please remember to support our scholarship raffle. It is the major income-generator for our Scholarship Fund! And be sure to take advantage of this must-attend family event next year!

Brett Chapin, chairman of the Scholarship Committee, is superintendent at Redding Country Club in Redding, CT.

Hudson National Team Defends Home Turf at MetGCSA

by Blake Halderman, CGCS

After a rainout forced the cancellation of the 2020 MetGCSA Invitational, this year's event goers were more than eager to get out on the links for some comradery and healthy competition. And it was well worth the wait! Host Superintendent Brett Scales and his team had the course in tremendous shape for our premier event of the year. A special thank you to Brett, Director of Club Operations Theron Harvey, and the rest of the leadership team for agreeing, once again, to host our event.

The Invitational teams were made up of two club officials, the golf professional, and the golf course superintendent from each club making for a great combination of networking and highly competitive golf. As every year, the Invitational champion team is honored by having their club's name engraved on the legendary trophy for all to see.

This year's event was a thriller, coming down to a match of cards between our host Hudson National Golf Club and Trump National Golf Club ~ Westchester, both posting a Net 56. The tourney ended with Hudson National claiming this year's Invitational Trophy as First Place Low Net winner.

Here are the tourney's top wins of the day:

Net Team Winners

- 56 Hudson National Golf Club
Brett Scales, Theron Harvey, James McHale, DJ Anderson
(match of cards)
- 56 Trump National Golf Club ~ Westchester
Dan Coughlin, Chris Marinaro, Scott Silver, Craig Benson

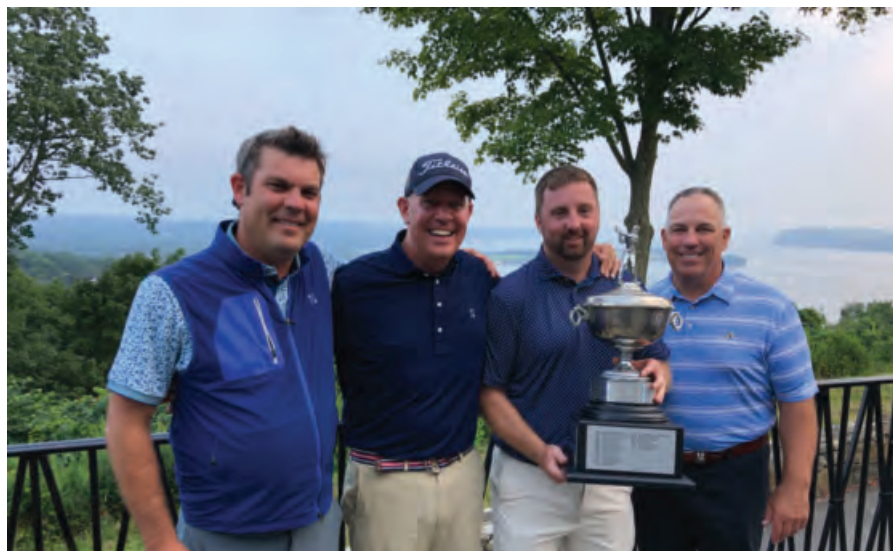
Gross Team Winner

- 62 Century Country Club
Kevin Seibel, Frank Bensel, Jonny Weiss, Thomas Ullman

Individual Gross Winner

- 64 Chris Marinaro, Trump National Golf Club ~ Westchester

Congratulations to the Invitational trophy winners from Hudson National. Left to right: DJ Anderson, Theron Harvey, Brett Scales, and Jim McHale.



Invitational goers enjoy lunch on the beautiful Hudson National patio overlooking the Hudson River.

Closest to the Pin

- #2 John Stuart, Canoe Brook CC 13' 1"
- #8 Morgan Gregory, Glen Arbor GC 3' 0"
- #13 Kevin Breen, Salem GC 11' 10"
- #16 Rob Labritz, Glen Arbor GC 3' 3"

Longest Drive

- #6 Kyle Hillegass, Knickerbocker CC
- #18 Theron Harvey, Hudson National GC

Thank you, again, to Brett Scales and the entire team at Hudson National for hosting such a special day for us. If you didn't make it out this year, please be sure to join us at next year's Invitational. It's a must-attend event!

Blake Halderman, a member of the Tournament Committee, is superintendent at Brae Burn Country Club in Purchase, NY.

The Big Wins at Poa Annual Fundraiser

by Zach Brooks

It's safe to say that everyone was excited when they heard that Century Country Club would once again welcome the Poa Annual Fundraiser. Host superintendent Kevin Seibel and his staff treated tournament goers with great conditions and a fair and challenging setup. This year's event determined not only qualifiers for the Met Area Team Championship, but also the 2021 Individual MetGCSA Champions.

Here are the highlights of the day's events.

The Poa Annual

A field of more than 80 made the trip to Purchase, NY, to compete in the Poa Annual fundraising tournament. The tourney raised \$4540 through Tee Sign sponsorships and the 50/50 raffle to help support the New York State Turfgrass Foundation. Thank you to all who contributed! Here's a look at the winning results:

Net Team Winners

- 64 Mark Chant, *Harrell's*
Graig Patti, *Hampton Hills Golf & CC*
- 65 Zach Brooks, *Noble Turf*
Sean Charles, *Green Brook CC*

Closest to the Pin

- #4 Brian Chapin, *Rolling Green GC* 8' 6"
- #7 Jason Meersman, *The Patterson Club* 4' 8"
- #13 Grover Alexander, *Hudson Hills GC* 4"
- #17 Sean Charles, *Green Brook CC* 11' 5"

Longest Drive

Jason Meersman, *The Patterson Club*

Met Area Team Championship Qualifier Results

The Met Area Team Championship was played on October 12 at Saratoga National. Watch next issue for the outcome! The teams representing the MetGCSA were as follows:

Participants enjoy a hearty lunch spread before their round.



Lining up a putt on the slick greens at Century.

Gross Qualifiers

Sean Cain, *Sunningdale CC*
Tom Ashfield, *Quaker Ridge GC*
Jason Meersman, *The Patterson Club*
Mark Chant, *Harrell's*

Net Qualifiers

Dave Moffett, *Mosholu GC*
Tony Grasso, *Westchester CC*
Vince Barnaba, *The Bowelton Club*
Jimmy Swiatlowski, *Montammy GC*

Met Championship Outcome

At this event every year, the MetGCSA crowns the winner of our Met Championship. This year's battle for the title ended

with Patterson Club Superintendent Jason Meersman claiming the MetGCSA Gross Championship with a 78, while Pelham Country Club Superintendent Jeff Wentworth took the Net Division with a 66.

Congratulations to one and all, and special thanks, again, to the entire Century Country Club staff for making our day of golf and giving memorable.

Zach Brooks, a member of the Tournament Committee, is a sales rep with Noble Turf in Mt. Laurel, NJ.

Mt. Kisco Hosts Mighty Fine Nine & Dine

by Steven McGlone

A rolling terrain coupled with firm and fast greens provided a true test of golf for MetGCSA members at this year's Nine & Dine. Held at Mt. Kisco Country Club on October 7, the event was hosted by Superintendent Andrew Agnew, who was more than pleased to welcome members for an afternoon of golf. (See golf results, page 12).

A Tale of Two Properties

Mt. Kisco Country Club opened its doors in 1928 as Lawrence Farms Country Club, complete with tennis facilities, horseback riding, and a lake for swimming. The brainchild of John Lawrence, the complex was built on farmland he purchased from one of the nation's leading industrialist bankers, Moses Taylor. Lawrence enlisted the design prowess of the famous Scottish-born architect Tom Winton who crafted the new Lawrence Farms golf course into 115 acres set in a natural depression between low wooded hills, well-bunkered greens, and a persistent stream in play for 13 holes.

A.W. Tillinghast was another renowned architect who made his mark on the landscape with some maintenance changes in the late 1930s. During WWII, a nearby club, which had opened in 1917 as Mt. Kisco Golf Club, ceased operations, and Lawrence Farms gladly assumed its membership and the Mt. Kisco name—with a slight modification. It became Mt. Kisco *Country Club* instead of *Golf Club*. The golf course you see today is the original Tom Winton design with the exception of the 17th green, which has been moved back and to the left behind the creek.

As Nine & Dine contestants saw, Mt. Kisco Country Club is not only aesthetically pleasing, but a challenging course to play. And golf event or not, you can always count on Andrew to have it in championship condition.

The Path to Mt. Kisco

Andrew was born, one of six children, on the west bank of the Hudson River in the

quiet town of Marlboro, NY, just north of Newburgh. He was introduced to the game of golf at a young age, playing with his grandfather, John Agnew, who would take Andrew golfing at the nearby Powelton Club every year for his birthday from the time he was 6. A 50-year member of Powelton, John was a skilled golfer, winning the club championship three times in the 1950s and '60s. Andrew grew to love the Powelton Club and admired its immaculate greens and fairways. "Everybody in town considered PC to be the pinnacle of golf in the Mid-Hudson Valley," says Andrew.

Seeing his passion for the club and the game, Andrew's grandfather recommended that he pursue a part-time job during high school at Powelton, working for then Superintendent Bobby DeMarco, who was highly regarded by club members.

"I'm sure lots of members tried to insert their grandkids into jobs there," says Andrew, "so I was certain Bobby didn't have high expectations for me. But I was determined to impress him with my work ethic and to learn everything I could from him. I still remember the first day on the job. I was like a deer in the headlights, feeling insecure about my ability to do the job without a serious misstep." But it didn't take long for Andrew to earn Bobby's trust and respect and, at the same time, to recognize he'd found his lifelong career.

"The PC quickly became my home away from home," says Andrew, who after spending several summers working under Bobby DeMarco's tutelage, was inspired to head to SUNY Cobleskill to pursue an associate's degree in golf course management. With an A.S. under his belt, Andrew decided to enroll in Penn State University (PSU) to complete his bachelor's in turfgrass management under the late legend Dr. Thomas Watschke. In 2002, while at PSU, and with the recommendation of Bob DeMarco, Andrew interned at Sleepy Hollow Country Club in Scarborough, NY. The club was hosting the U.S. Women's Amateur that year, which proved a great experience for Andrew. "Working with the club's superintendent, Tom Leahy, and then assistants Paul Gursky,



Andrew Agnew

Matt DuTremble, and Doug Vanderlee, I saw the different world of Westchester County turf management," Agnew remarks. "I learned something new every day and loved every minute of it."

And apparently Tom Leahy and staff were pretty taken with him too. While back at PSU for his last semester, Andrew received a call from Tom offering him the opportunity to assume Matt's position, who was moving on to Ardsley Country Club. This proved to be the turning point in Andrew's career. Andrew was like a sponge, absorbing as much information and knowledge as he could. It didn't take long for Tom to recognize Andrew's ability. In 2007, he assigned Andrew the job of renovation liaison, overseeing the restoration work being performed by Gil Hanse & Co.

"I had no experience with construction at that point, but I guess Tom saw something in me that I didn't know I had," says Andrew. "Those years coordinating with Tom, the Gil Hanse team and construction crew, the greens chairmen, and the GM prepared me well for what I'm doing now."

What's Doin' at Mt. Kisco

After 10 years at Sleepy Hollow, Andrew was selected in 2012 for the superintendent's position at Mt. Kisco Country Club. In his nine-year tenure, there has been no shortage of projects, which, at the moment, include finetuning a newly installed irrigation system, continued fairway recontouring work, and cart path construction.

"We've also done drainage work every year since I've been here to correct poorly drained areas, particularly on the fairways, and to replace failed drainage that had been installed on the property long ago," says Andrew. In the works now is a bunker renovation project and tennis bubble construction, followed by the construction of additional equipment storage buildings and paddle courts. Clearly no rest for the weary!

Contestants Shine at Mt. Kisco Nine & Dine

by Worth Andrews

Though Andrew has his hands full on the course, he is grateful to have tenured staff by his side. His assistant, Tom Tooley, recently retired after 41 years at the club, but Andrew has brought in Bob Miller, formerly Golf Club of Purchase, to assist on his management team. In addition, his foreman, Leonel Alvarez, has been on staff for more than 25 years and helped him oversee his 15-person seasonal crew.

Andrew is also grateful to have a strong relationship with longtime Greens Chairman Tom Alfredo, as well as solid support from General Manager Tanya Barshell.

When asked how he likes being the head superintendent at such a historical gem as Mt. Kisco, being an outdoor enthusiast, Andrew remarked, "I'd still rather be outside doing tree work on a 10-degree day in February than in the office answering emails and working on budgets, but I guess that's the price of success!"

Beyond Work

The year 2012 was a big year for Andrew. Not only did he accept his first superintendent's position at Mt. Kisco, he also tied the knot with his wife of nine years, Colleen.

The Agnews live in Danbury, CT, and have three spirited children: Tommy, 8; Claire, 6; and William, 4. While not on the job, Andrew enjoys hunting and fishing with his children and is a big New York Football GIANTS fan.

Steven McGlone, a member of the Tee to Green Editorial Committee, is superintendent at Siwanoy Country Club in Bronxville, NY.

This year's Nine & Dine event was held on October 7 at Mt. Kisco Country Club. With the weather being nothing but spectacular and the course in tiptop shape, golfers enjoyed a great day on the links.

Host Superintendent Andrew Agnew and his team presented Mt. Kisco Country Club in pristine form for the field of 40 golfers who came out to compete in the nine-hole Shamble. With home field advantage, host Superintendent Andrew Agnew along with teammates Glenn Perry, Scott Tretera, and Tony Grasso took home First Place by a match of cards and a score of 31.

Here's a snapshot of who came out on top at the end of their nine-hole round:

Team Shamble (Match of Cards)

1st Andrew Agnew, *Mt. Kisco CC*
Glenn Perry, *Rolling Hills CC*
Scott Tretera, *Harrells, LLC*
Tony Grasso, *Westchester CC*

2nd Joe Gikis, *GlenArbor GC*
Luke Pittman, *GlenArbor GC*
Keith Day, *GlenArbor GC*
Ryan Avery, *Grass Roots Turf Products, Inc.*

Closest to the Hole

#4 Keith Day, *GlenArbor GC* 11'
#8 Todd Apgar, *Metro Turf Specialists* 10' 10"

Longest Drive

#9 Austin Sevick, *Westchester Country Club*

Thanks Are in Order

We would like to thank everyone who came out to take part in the Nine & Dine. We would also like to thank General Manager Tanya Barshell for welcoming our members, Head Golf Professional Kevin Ausserlechner and his staff for running the tournament, Executive Chef Vinay Swarup and his team for providing an excellent post-round meal, and, of course, Golf Course Superintendent Andrew Agnew and his team for delivering outstanding course conditions.

Worth Andrews, our Class C Rep and member of the Tee to Green Editorial Committee, is an assistant superintendent at Brae Burn Country Club in Purchase, NY.



First Place Shamble winners (Left to right): Andrew Agnew, Scott Tretera, Glenn Perry, Tony Grasso.

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