

Tee To Green

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est 1959

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Tee to Green



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L

ike you, I'm often surprised at how quickly time passes. Case in point: I have trouble believing that it's been 12 years since I joined the MetGCSA Board of Directors. Even more amazing to me are all the challenges we've faced during that time—and the progress we've made in meeting those challenges. Now that I'm honored to serve as MetGCSA president, I want you to know how excited I am to work with all of you to strengthen our association and our industry.

As I settle into this new role, I can't help but admire the leadership demonstrated by our past presidents. In my time on the board, these presidents, along with the Board of Directors, began the process of bringing back the Executive Director position while initiating several projects to strengthen the association. Like the progress we make at our respective clubs, the work needed to move forward is often done behind the scenes.

I also want to give thanks to Rob Alonzi for his service over the past two years as president of the MetGCSA. He could never have envisioned the challenges Covid would create for all of us, professionally and personally. Rob provided a steady hand and outstanding leadership in helping us cope and adapt. I hope to follow Rob's excellent example as the Covid crisis eases and we can focus our energies more fully on what we do best.

Looking Ahead

Let me share a few of the areas I'd like to focus on this year and next:

- *Enhanced transparency.* I believe a lot of the hard work that goes into progress is done behind the scenes. Personally, I think we could do a better job as a board in making sure membership understands and values the goals and accomplishments of our association. Similarly, I want to invite the member-



Brett Chapin
MetGCSA President

ship to share their thoughts and ideas on ways to strengthen the impact we have on our clubs, our communities, and the game of golf.

- *Sensible environmental initiatives.* Our environmental initiatives are challenged on a daily basis. We are currently working with the GCSAA and CAGCS to lobby against a ban of Chlorpyrifos and Neonicotinoids on golf courses in Connecticut. New Jersey just went through a similar process, and New York is not far behind. We need to unify not just to support these efforts, but also to share and strengthen the "lessons learned" from these challenges.

- *Attracting talent.* During the past year, most superintendents faced increasing shortages of labor as they struggled to fill almost every staff position open. The MetGCSA is working with the Met PGA and Met CMAA to create an annual job fair to expose potential employees to the game

continued on page 8

A portrait of Brett Chapin, a man with a beard and mustache, wearing a red jacket over a blue shirt. The background is a plain, light gray.

Feature

Brett Chapin Is Named MetGCSA's 36th President

by Greg Wojcik

B

eing a golf course superintendent is a way of life, not simply a job.”

That quote by Brett Chapin understates just how passionate and committed he is to the industry and the game of golf. His enthusiastic involvement over the past 20 years on so many levels—from serving on numerous committees as a member and leader to his ongoing stint, since 2010, on the Board of Directors—is legendary. And now, adding to his impressive record of service to our organization, last November he graciously accepted the reins from now past president Rob Alonzi and became the MetGCSA’s 36th president.

From the Ground Up

Brett’s involvement in the turf business started early—really early. Hailing from the small town of Washington, CT, he worked after school and during summers at The Washington Club, a nine-hole course. His first summer there had him working hard in the cart barn. He spent the next couple of summers working and learning on the maintenance crew. He clearly came to consider his work at the club more than a way to earn some pocket money, because following graduation from high school, Brett enrolled in the turfgrass management program at UMass in Amherst. While pursuing his B.S. (and becoming a die-hard Red Sox and Patriots fan), he secured three impressive internships. In 1999, he worked at The Golf Club of Purchase with now-retired Bob Miller; in 2000, at Apawamis with also retired Bill Perlee; and in 2001, at Siwanoy with the late Dave Mahoney.

These varied experiences left Brett well-prepared to enter the industry, which he did immediately upon graduation from UMass. He landed an assistant’s job at The Seawane Club in Long Island. He didn’t have much time to ease into the job: Superintendent Brian Benedict immediately got him involved in helping usher the club through an enormous reconstruction project to bring the course back to its original seaside design.

“Working side-by-side with Brian, as well

as with the project’s architect, Stephen Kay, we completed a multi-million-dollar renovation that included a completely new irrigation system, new bunkers and tee complexes, and the removal of all but 50 trees,” he says. “Massive amounts of fill were brought onto the course to create architectural mounding where trees had been.”

The team’s hard work did not go unnoticed by club members or outside golf professionals. The project was so successful that, in 2004, it won the prestigious “Golf Club of the Year” award from the Metropolitan Golf Course Writers Association.

Back to Connecticut

In 2006, Brett landed his current position as superintendent at Redding Country Club in Connecticut. As at Seawane, Brett jumped in with both feet. Working closely with green chairman Brian Innes, Brett and his team removed more than 1,500 trees as part of redoing bunkers, the irrigation system, short game facilities, and much more.

“Mr. Innes is not your everyday chairman,” Brett says. “He was a second-year green chairman when I took the position, and I feel fortunate that, 15-plus years later, he is still chairman.”

Communication has proved to be the key to this successful working relationship. “We email turf articles to each other, look forward to the MGA Green Chairman Events, and have shown the membership that continuity is priceless,” Brett says. “RCC continues to expand its footprint as club membership has grown significantly over the past two years. The club will begin this season to rebuild our bunkers and replace our synthetic liners, upgrade our sand, and continue to enhance our member experience.”

Stepping Up to the Board

Brett joined the Met Board of Directors in the fall of 2010 and immediately began making a difference. Working closely with Whippoorwill’s Paul Gonzalez and former Executive Director Ed Brockner on the Advertising Committee, Brett helped

revamp the advertising package to better support and aid association vendors. His involvement in this initiative led to changes that are still in place today.

Because declining a challenge is not in his DNA, Brett agreed to take on the responsibilities of Education Committee chairman. “Knowing that education has always been a centerpiece of our association, I felt committed to furthering that effort,” Brett says. “Fortunately for me, assuming that position was a very smooth process. Glen Dube and Rob Alonzi, co-chairs before me, did a fantastic job in showing me the ropes.”

As if his plate wasn’t already filled, Brett eventually agreed to chair the Social and Welfare Committee, where he spearheaded the move of our Summer Social from a country club to the Orienta Beach Club. The infamous clambake has made this a must-attend Met summer event.

GCSAA Involvement

Brett’s industry commitment has gone beyond Met boundaries to getting involved in the GCSAA. In 2014, when after 14 years Bedford’s Bob Nielsen was ready to retire from his Chapter Delegate responsibilities, he handed off this important duty to Brett, who accepted it with his usual can-do attitude.

For the past eight years, Brett has traveled to the GCSAA Chapter Delegates Meeting in Lawrence, KS. For two days, the group of delegates discuss GCSAA issues and prepare for the organization’s Annual Meeting, held at the Golf Course Industry Show.

“The MetGCSA is considered one of the strongest associations in the country,” says Brett. “I’m honored to represent the Met as a delegate.”

As he built solid relationships with GCSAA members around the country, Brett expanded his volunteer work, agreeing to serve on the organization’s Education Committee, as well as the Communication Outreach Task Group. Most recently, Brett was appointed by the GCSAA board to serve on its 2021 Board Oversight Task Force Group and Nominating Committee



Brett joins his wife, Grace-Marie, and children Nathaniel and Adreanna, in one of their favorite pastimes, a Patriots game.

in which the 2022 GCSAA Board of Directors slate was put together.

Keeping the Channels of Communication Open

As Brett looks forward to his term as MetGCSA president, he is quick to acknowledge the accomplishments of the presidents and board members who served before him.

“The guys I’ve followed have made it somewhat easy for me because there remain only small changes for the Met group that I see,” says Brett.

One of those areas concerns Met meetings themselves. “Participation at the meetings has always been difficult to keep at a full complement, but I understand the limitations that members are subjected to as all our time seems to be taken up by additional responsibilities,” Brett says. “Having said that, I strongly encourage members to make every effort to attend the Met events. You never know when you’ll pick up a tip or two that could make your year a better success. You may just have a great time getting away from your course for a few hours to meet new members, reconnect with friends, and learn more about dealing with all the issues and challenges we superintendents face.”

Brett expressed enthusiasm for working with—and the work of—Executive Director Mike McCall.

“Mike has done a stellar job for our association since he accepted the post as executive director,” Brett says. “He has forged

improved relationships with allied associations and has opened up communications with club managers, head pros, and club controllers through their professional associations. That effort requires a consistent awareness that relationships, from family to sports teams to our professional relationships, require a certain level of work in order to be successful.”

His Highest Priority

While Brett likes to say that being a golf course superintendent is a way of life, it’s clear to anyone who knows him that his highest priority is his family.

Because golf has been such a huge part of Brett’s life since high school, it may not be so

surprising that he met his wife at The Seawane Club, where she had accepted the job as Food and Beverage Manager at the club after two years in the same position at Fresh Meadow Country Club. They married on January 29, 2005, holding the ceremony and reception right there at the club.

Today, Brett and Grace-Marie remain a strong golf-industry couple: Grace-Marie recently was hired as the executive director of the Connecticut Golf Course Superintendent’s Association. The busy couple have two children, Adreanna, 12, and Nathaniel, 10.

The Met association is in very experienced and capable hands with Brett in the top leadership spot. As always, Brett is approaching this new challenge with enthusiasm and humility.

“I look forward to continuing the fine tradition of excellence that our association has demonstrated over the years,” he says. “I’m truly honored to be given this opportunity.”

Greg Wojcik, a member of the Tee to Green Editorial Committee, is co-owner of Playbooks for Golf.



Brett enjoys a ride around the property with his green chairman, Brian Innes.

Trio of Talks Engage Winter Seminar-Goers

by Chip Lafferty

Although the recent wave of the Covid-19 variant, Omicron, kept us from meeting in person, our January 12 event did not stray from the core principal of the Winter Seminar: Education. The speakers were outstanding, and Playbooks for Golf's Matt Leverich, once again this year, did a superb job as moderator.

Wetting Agents and Their Effects on Soil Borne Turf Diseases

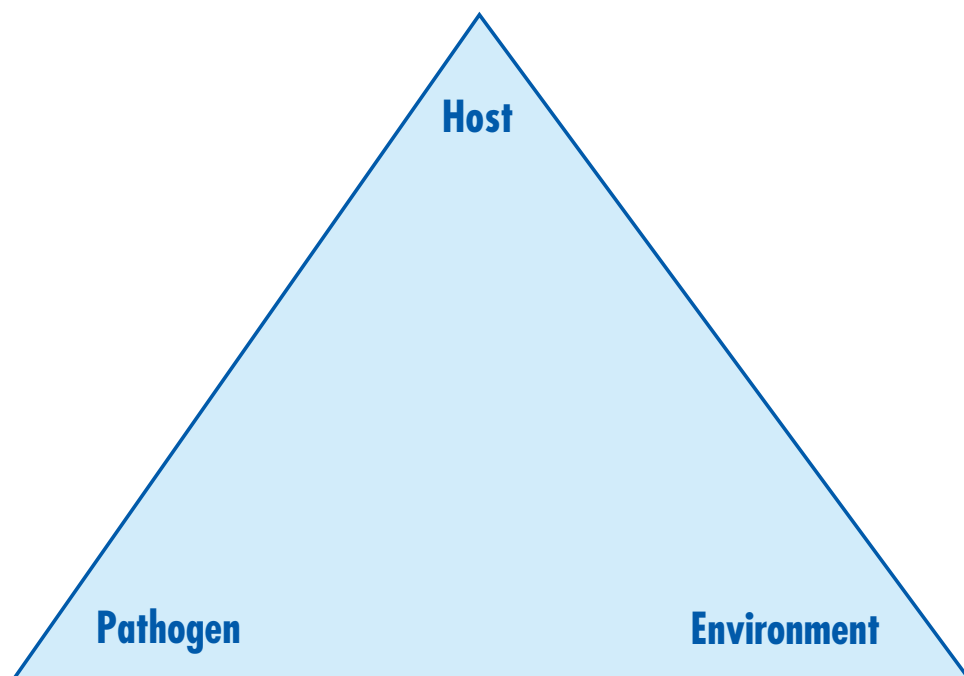
The session kicked off with Dr. Michael Fidanza, professor of plant and soil sciences at Penn State Berks. Dr. Fidanza's main topic of discussion was the use of wetting agents in a turfgrass management program and the role they play in disease management.

Traditionally, wetting agents were reserved for summer-month applications to bolster irrigation efficacy. But Fidanza pointed to new research that suggests wetting agents may be useful all season long as plant protectants on intensely managed turf.

Time and time again, research has proved that proper moisture management will result in fewer diseases and other turf issues later in the year. When plants get stressed by lack of moisture, wetting agents can help keep the soils in balance with the right amount of water and air space.

Dr. Fidanza pointed out that instances of anthracnose, dollar spot, fairy ring, and microdochium patch can be minimized with the use of wetting agents applied early in the season as part of pre-stress conditioning. Having a solid season-long wetting agent program to reduce stress will increase our fungicide programs' effectiveness during the more stressful parts of the season.

For additional information on wetting agents' use in disease management, you can reach Dr. Fidanza at maj100@psu.edu.



Deciphering Differences in Pythium Turf Diseases

Next up was a new face to the turf scene, Penn State's Travis Russell, a Ph.D. candidate in agronomy-turfgrass pathology. Russell's talk focused on understanding the similarities and differences between Pythium diseases as a means to effective prevention and control. He also shared Penn State research that has pinpointed a new Pythium disease of annual bluegrass called Pythium Patch.

Russell started with the basics of disease formation and went into the disease triangle that we are all aware of (see above). He explained how to influence one of the sides of the triangle to gain some control of these diseases.

He then went on to explain the differences in Pythium diseases. Pythium disease can be devastating to all turf species. There are more than 230 different Pythium species, and the majority are turf plant

pathogens. Most of the Pythium species are soil borne and like high relative humidity and high soil moisture. Russell circled back to the disease triangle and how influencing one side of the triangle can be an effective way to avoid Pythium outbreaks.

Correct diagnosis is critical in choosing control measures, because not every Pythium fungicide product is effective against every strain of Pythium. Russell notes that preventive applications at the onset of favorable environmental conditions can be one of the most effective ways to avoid outbreaks. He also warns that when choosing a control product, it is important to keep in mind that there has been resistance to mefenoxam (Subdue Maxx). The table on page 6 lists controls for the various Pythium diseases.

For further information, you can reach Travis Russell at trr33@psu.edu.

The Latest on Research Conducted at Cornell

Last but not least, Cornell's Dr. Frank Rossi took the floor. An associate professor in the School of Integrative Plant Science at Cornell University, Dr. Rossi leads the university's Turfgrass Science Program and is highly regarded by MetGCSA members. He was awarded the Met's prestigious John Reid Lifetime Achievement Award in 2017 for his many contributions to the image and integrity of the game of golf and the golf industry.

Dr. Rossi's discussion centered on logistics and data analysis, and how we, as turf managers, can use data to better manage our turf. We have many sources of good information in the industry today, and we are at a point where how we use this data can change how we do our jobs, providing us with the opportunity to operate more efficiently and with a firm emphasis on performing our jobs in an environmentally sensitive and sustainable manner.

Dr. Rossi went over tracking golfer traffic, both carts and pedestrian, through the latest GPS systems, to target areas that might need more fertilizer or aerification. This data can be used to proactively manage traffic to avoid stress and micro-manage more highly trafficked areas before they decline.

Another example he noted was using software that tracks the hole location on greens, along with exclusion zones, to allow for recovery before utilizing that location again. The program tracks the hole locations for the entire year, so now you can get a good picture of traffic distribution on the green surface, as well as the green surrounds that handle the majority of entrance and exit points. This is powerful information that, again, can be used to proactively manage traffic on and around our green complexes.

Dr. Rossi also touched on his work in analyzing golf shoe wear on different surfaces to determine what is the best, least aggressive spike pattern or sole on the shoe. This data has spurred one of the largest footwear companies in golf shoe apparel to team up with Cornell to produce a product that sells and performs well without adversely affecting the putting surface. Golf shoe wear on turf has been a particularly tough problem, especially for those who converted their greens to 100 percent bentgrass. It will be great if this study leads to golf shoes that have less of an impact on turf health, while still doing the job for the golfer.

Dr. Rossi closed with a shout-out to Ken Benoit of the New York Golf Course Foundation and the implementation of BMPs at our facilities. With the legislative

push to remove more and more products from the market, it's best that we do all we can to demonstrate to the powers that be that golf courses offer valuable and environmentally friendly green space. There is no better way for professional turf managers to do that than by embracing the current BMP initiative and documenting all that we do for the environment on our specific properties. Adopting the Facility BMPs will offer an extremely powerful way to illustrate to government officials and the public how golf courses can enhance the environment, as well as waterways and local communities.

For further information, you can reach Dr. Rossi at fsr3@cornell.edu.

Thank you, again, to Matt Leverich, our moderator, for keeping the seminar on schedule and the audience engaged. Although the winter seminar was once again virtual, it was, by all accounts, a success. I look forward to our traditional Winter Seminar gathering resuming next year!

Chip Lafferty, co-chair of the Tee to Green Editorial Committee, is superintendent at Rye Golf Club in Rye, NY.

Pythium Disease Controls

Pythium Foliar Blight	Pythium Root Rot	Pythium Root Dysfunction	Pythium Patch
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cyazofamid • Azoxystrobin + cyazofamid • Azoxystrobin • Fosetyl-Al • Mefenoxam • Propamocarb 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cyazofamid • Etridiazole • Mefenoxam • Azoxystrobin • Pyraclostrobin 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pyraclostrobin • Azoxystrobin • Cyazofamid 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Field reports of Fosetyl-Al being ineffective • Currently being evaluated • Most Pythium fungicides effective in lab experiments

Meet Your 2022 MetGCSA Board



From left to right: Chip Lafferty of Rye GC; Dave Peterson of Silvermine GC; Bill Cygan (front) of Silver Spring CC; Vice President Mike Brunelle (back) of Upper Montclair CC; Mike McCall, Executive Director; Secretary Jesse Shannon of Manhattan Woods CC; President Brett Chapin of Redding CC; Past President Rob Alonzi of Fenway GC; Class AF Rep Dave Conrad of Plant Food Company; Dan Rogers of Wykagyl CC; Mike McCormick of The Apawamis Club; Class C Rep James White (back) of Wykagyl CC; Aaron Crouse (front) of The Golf Club of Purchase; Treasurer Steve Wickstrom of Burning Tree CC.

MetGCSA Committee Chairs at Your Service

We've provided a list of each of the MetGCSA's 2022 committee chairs, including their phone numbers and emails. Please feel free to contact any of them with questions, comments, or helpful suggestions.

Awards Committee

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Fenway GC

ralonzijr@hotmail.com

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Bylaws Committee

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973-417-8199

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Mike McCormick (Website)

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Kevin Breen Elected 86th President of GCSAA

by Brett Chapin

Kevin Breen, CGCS, superintendent at La Rinconada Country Club in Los Gatos, CA, was elected to a one-year term as president of the GCSAA at the association's Annual Meeting February 10, held in conjunction with the GCSAA Conference and Trade Show. Breen is the 86th president in the association's history.

Breen served as vice president of the association in 2021 and has been a member of the association's board of directors since 2015. A 31-year member of GCSAA, Breen is also a past president of both the Sierra Nevada GCSA and the California GCSA. Breen has served as the superintendent at La Rinconada Country Club since 2011. Prior to that, he served as the director of maintenance at Lahontan Golf Club in Truckee, CA, and as the superintendent at Los Alamos (New Mexico) Golf Course.

He has bachelor's degrees in horticulture/turf from Colorado State University in Fort Collins and in meteorology from the University of Nebraska, Lincoln.

"I thank you for the opportunity I have before me this coming year in leading our organization, GCSAA," Breen said. "I have a full year of endeavors and work ahead of me that I am really looking forward to."

GCSAA Board of Directors at a Glance

President

Kevin P. Breen, CGCS, superintendent at La Rinconada Country Club in Los Gatos, CA

Vice President

Kevin P. Sunderman, CGCS, director of grounds at Isla Del Sol Yacht and Country Club in St. Petersburg, FL

Secretary/Treasurer

Jeff L. White, CGCS, superintendent at Indian Hills Country Club in Mission Hills, KS



Directors

- Douglas D. Dykstra, CGCS, superintendent at White Mountain Country Club in Pinetop, AZ
- Marc E. Weston, CGCS, superintendent at Indian Hill Country Club in Newington, CT
- Steven J. Hammon, superintendent at Traverse City (Michigan) Country Club
- T.A. Barker, CGCS, superintendent at Fore Lakes Golf Course in Taylorsville, UT
- Paul L. Carter, CGCS, superintendent at Bear Trace at Harrison Bay in Harrison, TN

Immediate Past President

Mark F. Jordan, CGCS, natural resources leader at Westfield Country Club in Westfield Center, OH

John R. Fulling Jr., CGCS, grounds and facilities manager at Kalamazoo (Michigan) Country Club, retires from the board after serving the past year as immediate past president.

The 2023 GCSAA Conference and Trade Show will be held February 4-9 at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, FL.

President's Message continued from page 1

of golf. An initial event is planned for April 13, and a larger focus will be put on strengthening this event for coming years.

• **Supply chain innovation.** Supply chain issues continue to cause disruptions to our operations. Previously readily available items are harder and harder to find. Prices on everyday items have shot up. For many, purchasing equipment and construction supplies must be pushed out until 2023—or later. We can't wait for things to change or get "back to normal." There is a new normal, and we must adapt. We are a creative industry, known for our problem-solving skills. Let's put these skills to good use, sharing ideas and strategies for dealing with this issue that affects us all.

• **Reconnect and recharge.** As we work through these and other challenges, it's important to reconnect with colleagues and friends. So please take advantage of several fun events coming up in 2022, such as our Two-Ball event on April 25 at Knollwood, our summer clambake on July 11, or the West Point Family Football Day on November 19. These events provide an opportunity to unwind from the daily challenges we face, recharge our batteries, and strengthen the connections with colleagues and friends that can be so beneficial to our careers.

This year is going to be a year of challenge and change. I look forward to working with all of you to not just meet the challenges successfully, but also implement creative new ways to make positive contributions to our clubs, our industry, and the game we all love.

Brett Chapin
MetGCSA President

Torrey Pines Provides a Tough Test for the GCSAA 2022 National Championship

by Scott Niven, CGCS

For those golfers who made the trip to San Diego, CA, the region's storied perfect weather did not disappoint. We didn't see a cloud during the entire tournament and enjoyed temps in the 70s and 80s. If you didn't play well, you certainly couldn't blame it on the weather! The five golf courses chosen for the various events provided excellent conditions for the 400 attendees.

Torrey Pines South was the site of the National Championship with lodging paired conveniently at the Hilton La Jolla Torrey Pines. The PGA tour just happened to be there the week before, playing the Farmers Insurance Open, so the golf course was in tour condition with slick greens and U.S. Open rough.

Other courses used for the event included Torrey Pines North, Singing Hills Golf Resort, Bernardo Heights Country Club, and Encinitas Ranch Golf Club. Played over the course of three days, the golf events ran from February 5 – 7 and offered an excellent opportunity for networking and friendly competition.

Though a MetGCSA member didn't take home the National Championship trophy, competitors from the Met did manage to post some noteworthy scores.

In the National Championship

Once again this year, the Met had only two players competing in the Championship Flight: Jason Meersman of The Patterson Club came in 22nd and Tom Ashfield of Quaker Ridge Golf Club finished 36th. Tom also qualified for the Senior Division where he finished a very respectable 8th.

Torrey Pines South's challenging setup took its toll on our competitors, leading to a winning score of 5 over par. Both Seth

Strickland of Miami Shores Country Club in Florida and Tanner Westbrook of Maridoe Golf Club in Carrollton, TX, achieved that total, leading to a playoff that was won by Strickland on the first hole of sudden death. That was his 5th time winning our National Championship and first back to back.

In the Four-Ball Championship

In the Four-Ball, we had more than a few Met members who took home prize money. In the First Flight, Allied Nutrients' Andy Drohen and Quaker's Tom Ashfield came in 3rd Gross, while John Carlone of the Meadow Brook Club and partner Mark Warren finished 1st in the Net Division and, the following day, also captured 2nd place in the Scramble event.

In the Second Flight, Mike Brunelle of Upper Montclair Country Club and Tom Weinert of Plant Food Company came in 3rd in the Gross Division while David Dudsones of Westchester Country Club along with partner James Swiatkowski of Montammy Golf Club claimed 12th Net.

In the Third Flight, Jeff Wentworth of Pelham Country Club and Bob Nielsen of Bedford Golf & Tennis finished 13th in the Net Division.

In the Golf Classic

The Golf Classic drew a similar cast of characters, posting respectable finishes. In the First Flight, Steve Whipple of West Point Golf Course finished 20th Gross. Tom Weinert played in the Affiliate Flight and came in 3rd Gross.

In the Second Flight, Meadow Brook's John Carlone placed 3rd Gross while Winged Foot's Stephen Rabideau came in 3rd Net. The Stanwich Club's Scott Niven

finished 6th Gross and Jeff Hemphill placed 9th Net.

In the Third Flight in the Gross Division, Upper Montclair's Mike Brunelle came in 17th followed by Westchester's David Dudsones who finished 20th and Pelham's Jeff Wentworth 21st.

In the Fourth Flight, Bob Nielsen placed 12th Net.

Finally, Montammy's James Swiatkowski finished 6th Gross in the Senior II Flight.

The MetGCSA had a couple of winners in the proximities prizes with Redding Country Club's Brett Chapin winning Closest to the Pin in the Scramble at 8'1", and in the Four-Ball, Pelham's Jeff Wentworth won Closest to the Pin, knocking it to 17'3".

Special Thanks

Special thanks to all the GCSAA staff for their efforts in putting this special event together and to all of the sponsors who made this event possible, especially the Toro Company for their generous partnership in being the title sponsor for more than 25 years.

Congratulations to all who participated in this year's golf championships. This annual preconference golf event offers a great opportunity to not only play some of the country's best courses, but also to network with superintendents from across the U.S. and around the world.

Next year, the GCSAA Golf Championship will be held in Orlando, FL. I hope to see you all there!

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

Upcoming Events

Dave Mahoney Two-Ball Qualifier

Monday, April 25

Knollwood Country Club, Elmsford, NY

Host: Scott Olson

Superintendent/Guest Tournament

Monday, May 23

Woodway Country Club

Darien, CT

Host: Anthony Garzia

MetGCSA Invitational Tournament

Thursday, June 16

The Stanwich Club

Greenwich, CT

Host: Scott Niven, CGCS

Summer Social/Clambake

Monday, July 11

Oriente Beach Club

Mamaroneck, NY

Summer Picnic

Thursday, August 18

Bedford Memorial Park

Bedford, NY

The Poa/Met Championship/ Met Team Qualifier

Monday, August 29

The Apawamis Club

Rye, NY

Host: Mike McCormick

Army Black Knights vs. UConn

Saturday, November 19

Michie Stadium, West Point

Join fellow MetGCSA and HVGCSA members, friends, and family for the West Point Family Football Day and Tailgate party. Food & beverages will be compliments of our two associations.

To register or for further information, contact Susan O'Dowd at 914-909-4843 or sodowd@mgagolf.org.

MetGCSA Holiday Party

Thursday, December 8

Emma's Ale House

White Plains, NY

MetGCSA Winter Seminar

Wednesday, January 11, 2023

Westchester Country Club

Rye, NY

Industry Events

27th Annual Rutgers Turfgrass Research Golf Classic

Monday, May 2

Fiddler's Elbow Country Club

Bedminster, NJ

Plan now to join fellow industry professionals for this annual fundraiser and a day of golf, education, networking, and fun. 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, The State University of New Jersey.

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

National Golf Day

Tuesday, May 10 – Wednesday, May 11

A virtual event

In its 15th year, National Golf Day offers the important opportunity to meet with members of Congress, the Executive Branch, and

federal agencies to discuss golf's 15,000 diverse businesses, two million jobs impacted, tax revenue creation, and tourism value. This year's event will be held virtually. Registration is open until April 8.

Be sure to attend to advocate on behalf of golf's interests with our country's lawmakers.

Rutgers Turfgrass Research Field Day: Golf & Fine Turf

Tuesday, July 26

Rutgers 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 16th Annual Dr. Joseph Troll Turf Classic

Monday, September 12

Pelham Country Club

Pelham, NY

Host: Jeff Wentworth, CGCS

MetGCSA Scholarship Award Applications Now Available!

Application forms for the 2022 MetGCSA Scholarship Awards are available on the Met website, www.metgcsa.org, or through MetGCSA Executive Secretary Susan O'Dowd at 914-909-4843 or sodowd@mgagolf.org.

Any Class A, Life A, Life A/AF, B, C, Life C, AF, or Life AF member of the MetGCSA or a dependent of a member is eligible to win. Applicants must be enrolled in a short course or in an associate's, bachelor's, master's, or Ph.D. program.

If you have any questions about the application process, please feel free to contact Scholarship Chairman Mike Brunelle at Upper Montclair Country Club. You can reach him by calling 973-417-8199 or by sending an email to mbrunelle@uppermontclaircc.com.

The Scholarship Committee will select recipients based on leadership, maturity, scholastic capabilities, activities, and commitment to a chosen career. **All applications MUST be RECEIVED by end of business day on Friday, June 10. Emailed applications will not be accepted!**

Scholarships will be awarded at an upcoming event. Watch our calendar of events in the *Tee to Green* or on our association website for the precise date and site of the event.

Knollwood to Host the MetGCSA Two-Ball Competition

by Kevin Collins

On Monday, April 25, Knollwood Country Club and Superintendent Scott Olson will host the MetGCSA's Dave Mahoney Two-Ball competition, a staple of the association's annual golf calendar.

Named for the late Dave Mahoney, the beloved Siwanoy Country Club superintendent and past MetGCSA president who left us way too soon, the Two-Ball competition was originally organized to promote camaraderie among MetGCSA members.

There is an A (lower handicap) and a B (slightly higher handicap) flight for two-man teams who make the cut. The competition lasts the whole season until there is only one team left standing in each flight at the end of the year. The winning teams are recognized every year in January at the annual Winter Seminar held at Westchester Country Club.

The Evolution of Knollwood

Knollwood Country Club got its start 128 years ago, when developer Augustus Giltender purchased 75 acres in Elmsford, NY, to build a "self-contained exclusive community." A clubhouse was built in 1892, and two years later, Knollwood Country Club was officially organized.

At that point, 200 additional acres were acquired, and the original golf course was designed and built by Lawrence Van Etten, a local civil engineer and founding member, with an assist from golf professional and famed architect Willie Park. Measuring only 5,300 yards, the course at Knollwood was eventually deemed antiquated—"too short"—and the club was having problems attracting new members.

In 1925, Knollwood's Board of Governors made plans to expand the golf course. They employed well-known architect A.W. Tillinghast to review the present course, taking into consideration the adjacent available property. Tillinghast recommended using the property to build seven new holes and lengthen the course by approximately 900 yards, all for \$50,000. Though his proposal passed board approval with flying colors, by the summer of 1925, they discharged Tillinghast and immediately retained the

services of Seth Raynor and his associate Charles Banks to review Tilly's design and complete the construction.

Work began anew with the rerouting of some of Tillinghast's design and new greens construction. In January of 1926, at age 51, Seth Raynor passed away. The torch for completing the project was passed on to Charles Banks, who continued the work, which was completed in September 1927. The total cost of the land and construction was a mere \$178,000.

The end result was a "hybrid" course designed and built by three of the more iconic architects of that era. The routing of 12 holes and construction of 2 greens are credited to Tillinghast. The routing of 6 holes and construction of 6 greens are credited to Seth Raynor. The construction of 9 greens is credited to Charles Banks. And Hole #9, one of Van Etten's original greens, still remains.

One of the more unique features at Knollwood is the "19th hole." The newly constructed 18th ended almost 200 yards from the clubhouse, so Seth Raynor designed a par 3 to shorten that gap and enable golfers to play an additional hole and, most likely, settle some bets.

An all-new master plan, under the guidance of architect Ian Andrew, was initiated in 2010 and pretty much concluded before Scott's arrival. In 2016, a major bunker renovation (all flat-bottom traps with grass faces—original design) was completed, and the 12th green was rebuilt along with some new tees and extensive tree removal.

The Road to Knollwood

Scott was born and raised in Wayne, NE. He pursued a B.S. in horticulture with an emphasis on turfgrass at the University of Nebraska, interning at Baltimore Country Club for Doug Peterson in 1999. After completing his degree in 2000, he accepted an assistant's position at Shadow Ridge Country Club in Omaha, NE, where he spent three full seasons.

In 2004, he decided to head East, accepting an assistant's position under Matt Severino at Scarsdale Country Club in Hartsdale, NY.



Scott Olson

"It was a big change for me. Along with moving across the country, I went from a 10-year-old all-bentgrass course to a 100-year-old *Poa* golf course," Scott remembers. "Then, starting in 2006, the club went through a two-year major renovation to the greens and bunkers, so it was a very busy few years."

Scott remained at Scarsdale until 2012, when he landed a superintendent's position at Hampshire Country Club. His first super's job put his skills to the test. It was the winter after Hurricane Sandy, and the golf course had been devastated by the storm.

"Eight feet of water sat on the course for a week," says Scott. "In the spring, we had dead turf throughout the course to deal with. Along with the turf issues, we had to replace two pump stations, buy new equipment, and deal with flood gates that had failed."

Fortunately for Scott, the irrigation system was back up by June, and the flood-control measures were repaired. "By August, we were back to normal," he says.

The biggest challenge at Hampshire was working with a small budget and crew. The course was purchased with the hope of developing high-end condos on the property, so the owners weren't committed to putting a lot of money into the course. All projects were done in-house.

Scott stayed at Hampshire until 2019 when he was hired as superintendent at Knollwood. "I felt like I had taken Hampshire as far as I could with the limited resources I was given, and I was ready for a new challenge," recalls Scott.

And a challenge it was. Scott and his staff spent a good amount of time in the Spring of 2019 repairing turf damage from the

exceedingly wet previous fall. They devoted the rest of the year to working through the irrigation system and finetuning their agronomic programs.

The 2020 season led to big changes at Knollwood. The club was dealing with a declining membership base and knew that the current model was not sustainable. Several options were considered before the membership decided to lease the club to Heritage Golf, a small management company out of Virginia.

"Once the deal closed in December of 2020, things seemed to change almost overnight," says Scott. As part of the lease agreement, Heritage committed to investing several million dollars in capital improvements to the club. Spring of 2021 brought improvements to the landscaping, two rebuilt tee complexes, reconstruction of six bunkers, and additional drainage. Last fall, a new putting green was built to make way for a multi-million-dollar clubhouse and patio renovation.

"Things are looking up at the club," says Scott. "Membership is up considerably, the golf course is in great shape, and everyone is excited for the upcoming 2022 season. Through it all," he adds, "the membership and new ownership group have been very supportive, and I have a great assistant and staff who deserve a lot of the credit for doing the heavy lifting. We would not be where we are now without their efforts."

Personally Speaking

On a personal note, Scott met his wife, Brook, while both were working at a private club in Lincoln. Scott was bartending and Brook was waitressing. Scott was smitten so Brook never had to wait for her drinks at the bar. They married in 2002.

Scott and Brook live in Brewster, NY, and have three children: twin boys Grant and Blake, who are 8, and daughter Sloan, who is 2. Keeping up with three young kids has certainly kept Scott busy. If he is not out on the golf course, you will probably find him on the soccer field, at the climbing gym, skate park, or ski slopes, trying desperately to keep up with his kids.

Be sure to join Scott and your fellow Two-Ball competitors on April 25 for a great round of golf!

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

Member News

New Members

Please join us in welcoming the following new MetGCSA members:

- **Ryan Hartmann**, Class C, Haworth Country Club, Haworth, NJ
- **Jonathan Kaschak**, Class C, Upper Montclair Country Club, Clifton, NJ
- **Michael Marvin**, Class AF, E-Z-GO Cushman, Metropolitan NY/NJ area

In Sympathy

For those who may not have heard before now, **Sabato Autorino**—better known as Chubby among Met members—passed away August 20, 2021. He was 92. A MetGCSA member since 1971, Chubby owned his own landscaping company before becoming superintendent of the Blind Brook Golf Club, a job he held for 35 years.

Our condolences and deepest sympathy to Chubby's family. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be sent to the Alzheimer's Association, www.alz.org.

We regret to announce the passing of another long-tenured MetGCSA member, **Maurice "Skip" Cameron**. A member

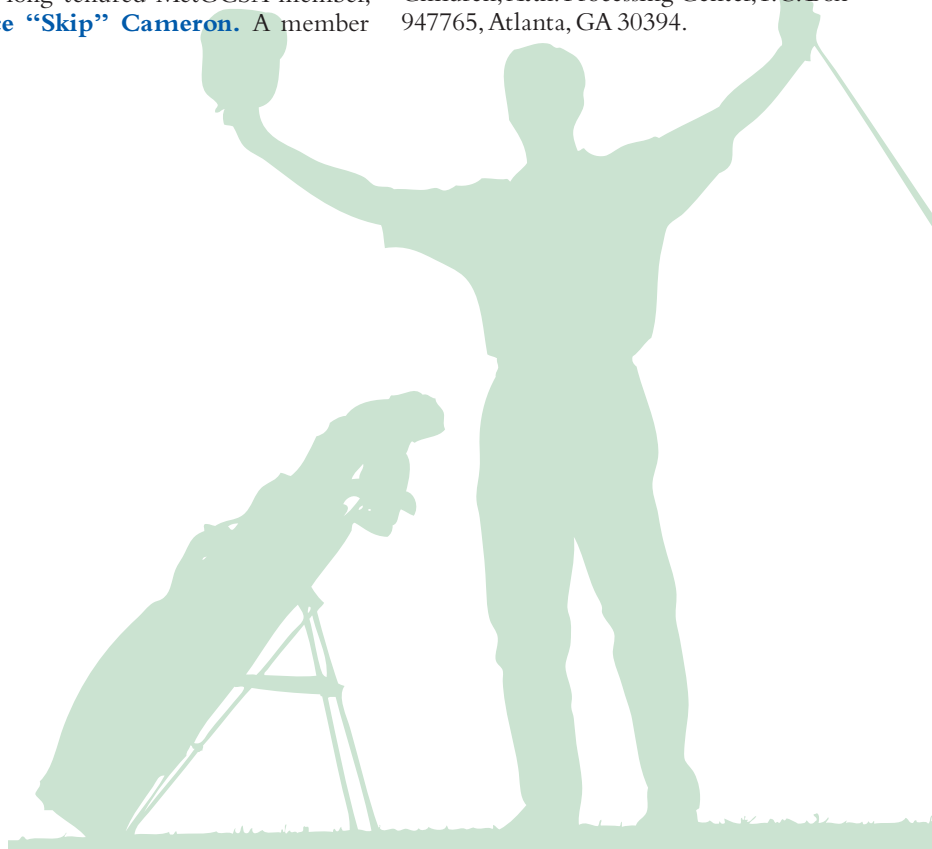
since 1961, he passed away March 15 at 87 years old in his Cream Ridge, NJ, home.

A graduate of the University of Massachusetts, Stockbridge School of Agriculture, Skip was inspired to enter the turfgrass management industry by his uncle and mentor, Sherwood Moore, who began showing Skip the ropes when he was just 12 years old. Skip served as superintendent at numerous New York and New Jersey courses throughout his career before accepting the position he retired from: Canoe Brook Country Club in Summit, NJ.

Our condolences to Skip's family. He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Phyllis Marcantonio Cameron, his children, grandchildren, and great-grandson.

Interment will take place at a later date in the spring in the Brigadier General William C. Doyle Veterans Cemetery, Wrightstown, NJ. Arrangements are under the direction of the Pepler Funeral Home, Allentown.

Memorial contributions may be made in Skip's name to the Shriners Hospitals for Children, Attn: Processing Center, P.O. Box 947765, Atlanta, GA 30394.



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