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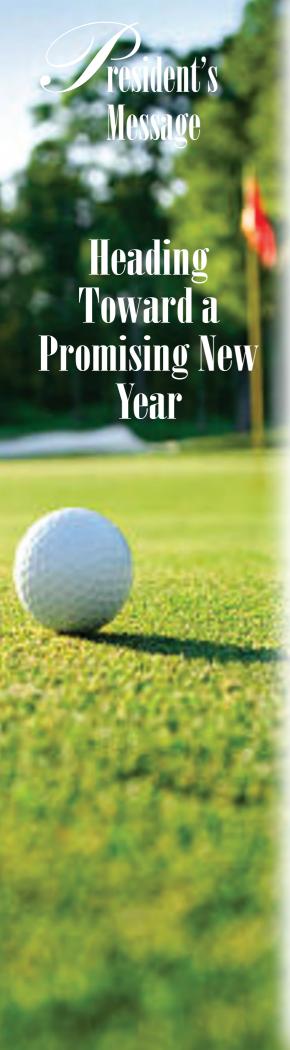
# n this Issue

## **Feature**

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inter damage, drought conditions, cost increases, and labor struggles spell the 2022 golf season for many area superintendents. Though seemingly interminable, conditions have finally rebounded with timely rainfall and cooler temperatures. This is just in time to usher in the fall season and work to prepare for the 2023 season ahead. It's often said that the work you put in during the fall is what gets you through the next season.

#### **Beyond the Golf Season**

Speaking of fall, the Met Fall Education Seminar will be held November 10 at Fenway Golf Club with a whole host of relevant topics:

- David Oatis of David Oatis Consulting will discuss the trials of winter damage
- Paul Giordano of Harrell's will cover best practices for soil-borne and root disease management
- Steve McDonald of Turfgrass Disease Solutions will discuss lessons learned from 2022 winter damage
- Greg Moore of The Plant Food Co. will cover irrigation water's soil and nutrient impact to your turf
- Michael Kapareiko, hydrogeologist of Weston & Sampson, will cover irrigation water supply source development and management.

These discussions will no doubt shed light on not only what we have experienced over the past season, but also how to work toward preventing similar circumstances in 2023. What better way to prepare for next season than to learn and discuss with your peers what worked and what didn't in 2022.

The MetGCSA Winter Seminar is returning January 11, 2023 to Westchester Country Club where you will join met-area superintendents, assistants, and affiliate members for a day of educational sessions and a luncheon made all-the-more memorable by its John Reid, Sherwood A. Moore, and Distinguished Service award ceremonies. Honorees are Peter Jacobsen, PGA, Rockrimmon's Tony Girardi, and Winged Foot's Stephen Rabideau. You will also have the opportunity to visit with our 25-plus



sponsors throughout the event at their exhibitor booths.

As the golf season came to a close, Met assistants geared up for their annual Assistants Championship on November 1 at Metuchen Golf and Country Club, Edison, NJ. As always, this proved a great get-awayfrom-it-all networking opportunity for assistants to enjoy a little friendly competition on the links with their peers.

The grand finale to the year is our annual Holiday Party, which will be held again at Emma's Ale House in White Plains, NY. Join fellow members and their guests for a festive evening.

#### Other News

The MetGCSA Board of Directors is working to build a budget for the 2023 season that will ensure the association continues to provide valuable opportunities for our membership: relevant and timely educational events, great golf outings, and a variety of social events that promote camaraderie and networking among members.

With that in mind, we'd like to remind you all that these events can take place only if we secure willing hosts. We hope you'll consider finding a time that's convenient for your facility to host a golf event in 2023 and 2024. If you haven't had the opportunity to share your facility or are ready to bring the association back to your club, please reach out to our Golf Committee.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our events over the coming months and getting a chance to talk about the summer we all want to forget.

**Brett Chapin** President



he 2022 season will no doubt be etched in the memories of many golf course superintendents as one of the most challenging of all time. I saw, firsthand, while visiting golf courses throughout the New York Metropolitan area, the trials golf course superintendents have faced during the 2022 growing and golfing season. For those of you among them, what follows might be a painful reminder of what transpired, but my hope is that, moreover, you'll find solace in knowing that you're not only far from alone, but also that there is a logical explanation for the challenges your course has faced.

#### The Ravages of Winter

I was visiting a golf course on Friday, February 4, 2022 to look at some construction projects, and the ground was completely thawed. It was 55°F and it was forecasted to rain more than one inch and freeze rapidly. While on the property, I walked a few of the greens just to see how they looked. The Poa/bentgrass greens were quite green for February, and the sand in the upper inch was completely thawed and loose.

The weather people were correct this time, and throughout various parts of the region, there was more than one inch of rainfall. The following day, on February 5, the daytime high was 25°F and the low was 14°F. While it's impossible to know the exact weather event that caused winter damage to Poa annua greens, I believe it was this thawwet-freeze cycle that was at the crux of the problem.

Throughout late February and March, many golf course superintendents noted straw, tan, and stunted turf in low-lying areas where water would run or collect, especially in areas that faced north or in winter shade (southern). It was obvious that this damage was environmental or abiotic (meaning death or damage caused by something not living).

"What a crazy year it has been. Started out in early January with 10-plus inches of snow, followed by 2 inches of rain the following week, creating the much-dreaded iced-over

greens. Then came a warmer-than-normal early part of February which melted much of the ice and snow, only to have rapidly freezing conditions later in the month. And our worst fears came true with devasting crown hydration—the worst we've experienced during my 28-year tenure at Rockrimmon. All told, 12 greens had some degree of damage. Following that was a cold, slow spring and then major drought conditions in July and August. Can anyone say, bring on the snow?"

- Tony Girardi, CGCS MG, Rockrimmon Country Club

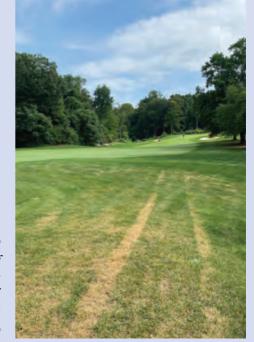
#### Why Some Weathered Winter Well

For golfers, it is important to note that some golf courses had no damage, some minor (50 square feet), and other golf courses had extreme damage (affecting 10 or more greens). Maintaining high-quality Poa annua greens (honestly, any species grown for putting greens) can be risky, and golf courses that did not have winter damage were just flat-out lucky.

When it comes to winter damage, no two situations are exactly the same. But this year, I did note some patterns. Here is what I

- Rural properties seemed to be more impacted than golf courses with major insulating factors like houses and black top (macadam). Courses on Long Island and near major highways were less affected than golf courses surrounded by large open tracts of
- Turf with sandier profiles seemed more affected than areas that had more native soil mixed into them. Some greens were damaged only in sand-based drains, for example. This shows that some of the issues could be related to sand having less of a temperature buffer, or the temperature swings in sands are more severe.
- Greens and even portions of greens facing away from the winter sun were more severely affected than greens with ample sunlight during the winter months.

Clearly, winter damage is extremely complex and variable.



During the drought, cart traffic at Fairview Country Club added to the management challenges under extreme conditions.

#### **Healing From Winter Damage**

For golf courses that did have winter damage, it was a long and slow March, April, and May. For golf courses that did not have winter damage, green-up was slow. One big topic this spring was slow aerification recovery due to the cool spring weather. This has made many superintendents reconsider aerification timing and was a topic of discussion during many of my visits until the grass really pushed hard in late May and June.

"Coming out of winter, I had severe damage on nine greens. Steve helped me through the recovery process talking through options, such as covers, sodding, plugging, aerification, mowing heights, and fertilizer applications. His advice was extremely helpful in getting our greens back to normal much sooner than expected."

- Blake Halderman, CGCS, Brae Burn Country Club

## From a Rough Winter to a Tough

By the third week in June, the weather had changed. A drying trend began that continued through July, August, and September. These have been brutal months for the management of cool-season grass in the Metro region, which in addition to unseasonably dry weather has been plagued with periods of warm nights, high-heat days, and windy conditions.

Other key observations from 2022 include:

Rockrimmon Country Club's 8th green suffered significant ice damage.



- Golf cart policies that were relaxed during 2020 due to Covid are still not being enforced at many of the golf courses I visited this year. The impact of golf carts on fairways and rough was obvious this July and August.
- Golf courses that have dynamic and modern irrigation systems fared much better than ones that do not. This is a huge talking point for courses to have infrastructure in place.
- "I feel fortunate to have installed an irrigation system 11 years ago that is extremely versatile. We have hundreds of part-circle sprinklers, enabling us to pinpoint our irrigation water to exact targets. We also installed well over 400 quick couplers so that we can hand-water any spot on the golf course. This came in very handy as the summer drought kicked in to high gear!"
- Jim Pavonetti, CGCS, Fairview Country Club
- Water quantity is something we will need to address in the near future. Many golf courses had some restrictions in place, but rarely do we see these enforced as much as they could be. Many courses had to shut off water to various areas to conserve. Among them were practice facilities, tee surrounds, tee-to-fairway areas, followed by areas between golf holes out of the normal playing corridor.
- "Our water supply is very limited and only replenished by rainfall runoff and some effluent. This year's drought put our turf to the test, as we had to reduce areas that

received irrigation and reduce irrigation on anything left. Hand-watering fairways is what saved us. By hand-watering fairways, we saved 100,000 gallons of water per day. We would have had a very different golf course had we been forced to stop watering all together. My club is now looking into resurrecting some old wells on the property as a means to supplement the irrigation supply in the future."

- Jim Pavonetti, CGCS, Fairview Country
- Air flow was not a tremendously important factor this year in most situations due to higher-than-normal wind speeds. Many mornings and evenings seemed windier to me this year than most. Pocketed greens still benefited from the use of fans or blowers during various humid, stagnant days in July, August, and September.
- "This was my second year utilizing portable turf fans, and I can say that it has been worth the club's investment. Some of our greens are surrounded by higher terrain, so air flow has always been an issue. Using the fans has been a great help to making our greens consistently healthy."
- Jim Pavonetti, CGCS, Fairview Country Club
- When it rained, it rained! While rainfall was rare for most of this year, when it actually did rain, it was rarely 0.2–0.25 inches, but rather 1 to 3 inches. This rainfall actually made watering more difficult because the areas that typically dry out more quickly also tended to have the rain run off

rather than penetrate the soil.

- As superintendents know well, weather dominates every aspect of golf course care, including some of our major fungal and insect pests. This year, dollar spot, which is more severe in drier soils, was a frequent topic of discussion on my course visits. I probably had 40- to 50-percent more questions this year than ever before about dollar spot control. Potentially, drier periods, especially in the middle of the summer, impact annual bluegrass weevil cycles. It only follows, then, that it was tough to find widespread ABW larvae during July, August, and September this year. In 2021, which was a much wetter year, I saw significant ABW damage through the entire summer.
- Not weather related, but important to golf course conditioning nonetheless, is that labor has continued to be an issue for golf courses. In fact, less than 10 percent of the golf courses I visited this year told me they were fully staffed.

#### Advice for Surviving the Next Winter

Winter damage is complex, and we are still learning about the exact mechanisms that cause it. Every winter is different: some warm, some wet, some dry, and some extremely cold. It takes only one weather event to damage shortly mown turf. Unfortunately, winter damage can be nearly impossible to prevent, but there are steps you can take every autumn to improve your turf's odds of surviving the winter:

 Beware of winter shade on greens. It weakens turf, encourages ice and freezing, and inhibits photosynthesis, which is critical



Rockrimmon's putting green succumbed to a harsh winter with ice accumulation in January, followed by a meltdown in February, and then rapid freezing.

to the turf plant's ability to thrive. Sunlight is one of the major factors in growing quality turf on greens, tees, fairways, and rough.

- In order to reduce winter damage and stress to Poa annua greens, keep soil potassium (K) levels at more than 50 ppm in the upper 4-inch root zone leading into the autumn months.
- Ensure greens have adequate surface drainage, and correct any collar dams prior to freezing. Subsurface drainage rarely reduces winter damage because the soils are frozen. To reduce winter damage, the key is to get the water off of the green's surface as quickly as possible no matter the soils' temperature.
- Tarping greens or using wind breaks around greens can help to reduce wind damage, but these practices require significant labor when not every golf course has the resources to use these methods. Tarps can create other issues with drought, disease, and a quicker break in dormancy, which can leave the turf more sensitive to frost and cool weather in the spring months once the tarps are removed.

Impermeable tarps (i.e., no water can get through) are used farther north to prevent water damage, but with potentially warmer days in our region, they can make it tough to gauge the installation timing and removal. Permeable tarps (i.e., allow water through them) can sometimes trap moisture in the foliage, and once tarped, the greens are not easily examined to detect disease or other stressors.

Tarping greens is controversial, and every golf course superintendent and golfer may have a different point of view. This spring, tarps did prove valuable in warming soils and encouraging recovery of greens that had winter damage.

- "I had winter injury on greens where I have never seen winter injury in my 40 years here. Thankfully, we covered our worst greens with impervious covers which certainly alleviated the impact of the ice, cold, premature thaw or whatever else it is that kills Poa each winter! The cold, wet spring and dry summer has certainly made for a long season."
- Bob Nielsen, CGCS, Bedford Golf & Tennis Club
- Moderate, not extremely heavy, sand topdressing can sometimes help to reduce winter damage. The key, here, is to avoid creating layers in the profile. Sand cools down and freezes much more quickly than other growing media, and in 2022, some of the worst damage I saw was in soils that were very sandy or had sand-based drainage. Because of my observations, I am hesitant to recommend heavy sand applications prior to freezing temperatures.
- Autumn or early winter aerification (deep tine, core aerification, Drill-and-Fill or similar) is used by some golf courses to improve the physical drainage of a green during the winter months. In the spring of 2022, on some winter-damaged greens, the only living grass was in the autumn/early winter aerification holes.
- One of the most difficult topics to discuss is being conservative with placing environmental and mechanical stress on greens during the autumn. Autumn is a great time of the year for playing golf. With cooler nights

and typically less humidity, achieving desired green speeds becomes easier in the autumn than in the summer months. Many times, when I see winter damage to Poa annua, it stops at the green's mow line (i.e., the collar moved more than 100% higher is not impacted). One of my common talking points to golf courses that have experienced significant winter damage is to increase mowing heights or reduce cutting frequency to allow more turf for insulation leading into the winter months. This suggestion, unfortunately, usually falls on deaf ears because of the demand for green speed in the autumn.

· Finally, if you have never experienced winter damage, my advice would be to keep doing what you are doing!

Part of the interest and challenge of golf course care is to deal with the factors that Mother Nature throws our way. This year will go down as a challenging one, and I would encourage everyone to take stock of what you learned and use it to your advantage in the future.

Communicate with your Green Committee and club stakeholders, noting your challenges and what you might need to help you weather a similar "storm" in the future. Right now, enjoy the cooler weather and rainfall!

Best wishes for a great autumn!

Steve McDonald, founder of Turfgrass Disease Solutions, LLC, an independent research and agronomic support company, is an industry-recognized expert in turfgrass diseases and consults on over 200 golf courses annually.

## Scorecard

# Siwanoy Team Emerges Victorious at MetGCSA Invitational Tournament

by Mike McCall

inning the MetGCSA Invitational is nothing new for Siwanoy Country Club. Always a strong contender, Steven McGlone and his team took home the trophy twice before with their last win in 2017. They have been fighting hard ever since to reclaim the trophy, and this year their determination finally paid off when a match of cards fell in their favor.

The truth is everyone was a winner at this year's Invitational because participants were treated to a magnificent day and a golf course that was primed and ready for serious competition by Property Manager Scott Niven and his staff. Being the consummate host, Scott ensured all aspects of the day were planned and executed flawlessly along with Director of Golf Mike Summa and his team. The day concluded on the club's charming patio with a wide assortment of delicious victuals and good fellowship.

### **Prize-Winning Scores**

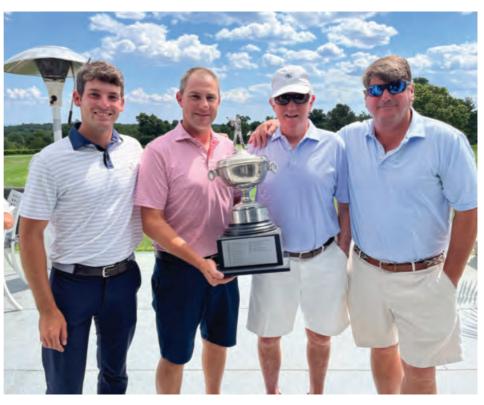
The Invitational teams were made up of two club officials, the golf professional, and the golf course superintendent from each club, making for a great combination of networking and highly competitive golf. As every year, the Invitational champions were honored by having their club's name engraved on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

The following are the prize winners for this year's event:

#### **Net Team Winners**

59 Siwanoy Country Club Steven McGlone, Billy Hackett, Patrick O'Brien, Charlie Maizel

60 Winged Foot Golf Club Steven Rabideau, Bert McDade, David Staudinger, Mike Gilmore (match of cards)



From left to right: Invitational winners Golf Pro Charles Maizel, Superintendent Steven McGlone, and Club Officials Billy Hackett and Patrick O'Brien.

#### **Gross Team Winner**

64 Westchester Country Club
David Dudones, Casey Egan, Mark
Christiana, Mike Ballo
(match of cards)

#### **Individual Gross Winner**

64 Bill Hook, Knickerbocker CC

#### **Closest to the Pin**

#13	8'6"	Matt Minerva, Golf
		Professional, Hudson
		National GC
#16	7'2"	Tim Walker, Superintendent,
		Leewood GC
#4	8'4"	Patrick O'Brien, Club
		Official, Siwanoy CC
#8	8'	Jimmy Swiatlowski, All
		Participants, Montammy GC

#### **Longest Drive**

 #9 David Lehn, Superintendent/Club Official, The Stanwich Club
 #17 Mike Ballo, Club Professional, Westchester CC

Thank you, again, to Scott Niven, Club President David Lehn, Green Chairman Ryan Particelli, General Manager Guy D'Ambrosio, and Director of Golf Mike Summa for use of the venue and providing an unforgettable day.

Next year's Invitational Tournament will be another must-attend event held this time at Fenway Golf Club.

Mike McCall, is executive director of the MetGCSA and managing member of the McCall Management Group, LLC.

## A Winning Day at Apawamis

by Steve Wickstrom

uperintendent Mike Mc-Cormick welcomed MetGCSA members to The Apawamis Club for the Poa Annual Fundraiser and Met Championship/Met Area Team Championship Qualifier. The hard work and investments the club made to revamp the golf course were showcased to impressed participants. The course showed no evidence of the severe drought the region had experienced, and it's no wonder since the event's title sponsor, Tanto Irrigation, had installed a state-of-the-art irrigation system just this past spring. From the welcoming staff, to the pristine course conditions, Apawamis could not have made for a better venue to host our annual fundraiser.

There were several competitions being held with the first being the MetGCSA Individual Championship. Josh Haugh of Siwanoy Golf Club took home Low Gross with a score of 79, beating second place Tony Hooks of Due Process by 1. Mike McCormick claimed Low Net honors with a 67, while JR LaPan of Country Club of Darien was runner up. Dave Lippman of Westchester Turf Supply shot a tournament Low Gross 74 to win for the Class AF

This event also served as the qualifier to decide who would represent the MetGCSA in the Met Team Championship held at Lehigh Country Club on October 17. There were four spots up for grabs for both Net and Gross divisions. Watch for an upcoming issue for the outcome of this annual competition.

A huge thank you to Mike McCormick and his staff for welcoming us to their beautiful course. Many thanks to Clubhouse Manager Beata Nemcokova for the outstanding food and service, and Golf Professional James Ondo and his staff for all announcements and score keeping. They made it look easy to pull off a flawless event.

## Poa Annual Tourney Results Net Winners

Mike McCormick, The Apawamis Club Steven McGlone, Siwanoy CC Doug Drugo, Wee Burn CC Brian Gjelsvik, Noble Turf

#### **Gross Winners**

Josh Haugh, Siwanoy CC Tony Hooks, Due Process Golf & Stable Tom Ashfield, Quaker Ridge GC Matt Lapinski, Noble Turf

#### **Long Drive**

#9 David McCaffrey, Metropolis CC

#### **Closest to the Pin**

#5 Andy Drohen, Allied Nutrients#12 Aaron Crouse, The GC of Purchase#16 Keith Kohlasch, Turf Products

The proceeds from the Poa Annual Tournament are donated to NYSTA in support of turfgrass research. This makes the donations from our tournament and Tee Sponsors all the more meaningful. We thank you for your support.

Steve Wickstrom, co-chair of the Tournament Committee, is superintendent at Burning Tree Country Club in Greenwich, CT.



## 'Nine and Dining' With Glen Dube at Centennial

by Steven McGlone

n September 28, the MetGCSA concluded its 2022 golf tournament lineup with a casual "Nine & Dine" at Centennial Golf Club in Carmel, NY. Hosting the event was Superintendent Glen Dube, who has graciously hosted numerous Met seasonal tournaments and meetings. I recently caught up with Glen to talk shop.

#### **A Unique Setting**

It would be tough to find a more scenic venue for the Nine & Dine than Centennial Golf Club. Designed by then touring pro Larry Nelson and built in 1998, its Hudson River Valley locale provides a scenic backdrop for the course. He later called the 340-acre layout at Centennial, with its rolling hills, ponds, rock outcroppings, and breathtaking views, "the most naturally suited to golf" he has ever seen. Dramatic elevation changes and breathtaking vistas are Centennial trademarks. Each nine stretches more than 3,500 yards. Accuracy off the tee and into the greens is paramount.

Thanks to the three nine-hole courses—Meadows, Lakes, and Fairways—golfers enjoy a totally distinct and memorable experience. Centennial's large multiple tees are positioned so that any combination of the three nines can be enjoyed by both beginners and—at a challenging total of over 7,100 yards—the most accomplished players.

Centennial Golf Club also features one of the Met area's finest practice facilities. Its double-ended driving range and bunkered target greens are complemented by an extensive short-game area designed by the famous designer and coach, Dave Pelz. It features three putting greens and two separate chipping and bunker areas. Centennial also hosts Dave Pelz Golf Schools and Golf Made Simple Schools from May through September.

#### **Connecticut Roots**

Glen was born in New Britain, CT, where his father made his living as a plant superintendent for Aerospace Technologies, a jet engine and aerospace component manufacturer. Glen's mother was a stay-at-home mom, taking care of all the important details for Glen and his younger brother, Paul. Early on, the family moved to Berlin, CT, where Glen attended Hubbard Grammar School and, later, Berlin High School. "I was a happy-go-lucky kid with a passion for sports," Glen says. "During high school, I played soccer, hockey, and golf."

Glen's path to turfgrass management began when he worked at a landscape and garden center during summer breaks. He enjoyed and was so intrigued by the work that, after high school, Glen enrolled in the turf program at the University of Rhode Island (URI) with an eye toward landscape architecture.

"When I got there, I had my doubts about pursuing that particular major," Glen remembers, chuckling. "Then one day I was hanging out after class and a tall, lanky, blond kid nearby was talking about a 'dew whip.' Not knowing what a dew whip was, I asked. The kid looked at me as if he couldn't believe I didn't know. After he explained the intricacies of this turf tool, we struck up a conversation that had a lot to do with my being where I am today."

That tall, lanky, blond classmate was Blake Halderman, currently superintendent at Brae Burn Country Club in Purchase, NY.

Now rededicated to the turf program at URI, Glen garnered some valuable experience working at his first tournament event, the Greater Hartford Open at TPC River Highlands in Cromwell, CT. "I worked on the crew, raking bunkers and mowing greens," he recounts. "There was a crew member there who took me under his wing. He taught me about turfgrass diseases, cup cutting, maintenance practices, just about everything a turfgrass manager needs to know. Oh, those were the days!"

In 1993, Glen was accepted for a URI internship at the Country Club of Darien, with then Superintendent Tim O'Neill. The following year, Blake and Glen interned at Muirfield Village in Dublin, OH. Glen graduated with a B.S. in turfgrass management from URI the following year.



Glen's professional career began in 1995 when he spent three instructive years as an assistant superintendent for former Super Peter Rappoccio Sr. at Silver Spring Country Club in Ridgefield, CT. He landed his first head job at Oak Hills Park Golf Course in Norwalk, CT. After several years there, he got a shot to manage Centennial in 2006

He's never looked back.

Nor has he stopped paying back. Glen has done an enormous amount of volunteer work for the MetGCSA. He served on the Met Board of Directors from 2003 to 2016, chairing nearly all the association's 10 committees, and has served as secretary, vice president, and president. Now in his 17th year at Centennial, Glen attributes much of his success to his assistant, Travis Teeter, who has been at Centennial for more than 20 years. "Travis is everything a superintendent could hope for—and more," Glen says.

### **Dealing With the Drought**

As all area industry folks know, the 2022 growing season has been a challenge, to say the least. Experts say the drought will go

## Scorecard

# Centennial Treats Nine & Diners to a Super Day

by Bill Cygan

down as one of the worst in 30 years—and it has hit Centennial hard. In mid-August, as the heat didn't let up, Glen and Centennial management were forced to make the tough decision to suspend irrigation of the fairways. This left Glen with 120,000 gallons per day for use on his greens and tees. That may sound like a lot, but with 27 regulation greens, the practice areas, and 100-plus tee boxes, it goes quickly. To add insult to injury, with minimal water supply, Glen had to defer this August's greens aeration.

"I am grateful for the seven wells we have on property that provided this amount," Glen says. "One of wells did run dry, but fortunately, it finally rained and we didn't have to depend on it." Thanks to the change in weather, Glen and his 10-person crew have been able to resume some of their regular maintenance practices, slit seeding with bentgrass and preparing to aerate.

"The recovery, however, will need more consistent rains and favorable weather," Glen notes. "I'm hoping Mother Nature will be good to us."

Whatever happens, given his track record of success, Glen will no doubt one day look back on this challenge and take pride in how he and his crew overcame it. But what he takes the most pride in are his three children. Madison, 20, is a proud recipient of a MetGCSA scholarship and is in her third year of college. Glen's two sons—Jake, 16, and Brayden, 11—enjoy playing in the annual scholarship scramble at Mosholu each summer.

"Golf has been incredibly good to me and my family," Glen says. "Pursuing turfgrass management was one of the best decisions I've ever made."

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

his year's Nine & Dine event was held on September 28 at Centennial Golf Club in Carmel, NY. It was a beautiful fall day with mild temperatures and a 44-player field. Host Superintendent and MetGCSA Past President Glen Dube and his team presented Centennial in wonderful form for the golfers who came out to compete in the nine-hole Shamble. The sprawling course was in great shape, despite the extreme drought conditions that were encountered throughout the summer. Glen took special note to thank his talented staff, as well as the golf operations team for their cooperation during an unprecedented season.

On behalf of the MetGCSA and Tournament Committee, we would like to thank everyone who came out to take part in the Nine & Dine. We would also like to thank PGA Pro Scott Klemme and his staff for running the tournament, the clubhouse staff for our wonderful post-nine dining and, of course, Golf Course Superintendent

Glen Dube and his team for delivering outstanding course conditions. Here's who took the lead in the nine-hole round:

#### **Gross Winners**

- 1st Brett Chapin, Redding CC, Rob Dorsch, Richter Park GC, Dave Lippman, Westchester Turf Supply, Gilberto Perez, Dunning Industries
- 2nd Worth Andrews, *Brae Burn CC*, Keith Day, *GlenArbor GC*, Dan Hopper, *Brae Burn CC*, Luke Pittman, *GlenArbor GC*

#### **Closest to Pin**

#3 Keith Day, GlenArbor GC#5 Mason Shaeffer, Winged Foot GC

#### **Longest Drive**

Dan Hopper, Brae Burn CC

Bill Cygan, Tournament Committee Co-Chair, is superintendent at Silver Spring Country Club in Ridgefield, CT.



Nine & Dine winners celebrate their victory. From left to right: Brett Chapin of Redding CC, Rob Dorsch of Richter Park GC, Gil Perez of Dunning Industries, and Dave Lippman of Westchester Turf.

## **Member News**

## Congratulations to Our 2022 Scholarship Recipients!

by Mike Brunelle, CGCS

he 2022 Scholarship Awards
Ceremony returned this year to
Mosholu Golf Course as part of the
Annual Parent/Child Scholarship
Tournament held August 2. One of
America's premier First Tee golf courses
located in Bronx, NY, Mosholu presented
the perfect playing field 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.

We had 11 parent/child teams playing in a nine-hole scramble, which seemed to be enjoyed by all. Congratulations to the Lafferty clan, who were this year's tournament winners.

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 tremendous condition.

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

This year, the Scholarship Committee had the pleasure of awarding scholarships to 18 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.

This year, we also had the privilege and honor of announcing the addition of a new scholarship award, the Dick Gonyea Scholarship, in memory of the late Dick Gonyea, Chip Lafferty's predecessor at Rye Golf Club. (See sidebar on page 11.) This scholarship was to be awarded to the most impressive scholarship applications the MetGCSA received. Though all the applicants this year were outstanding, two stood out among rest: Kathryn and Melissa Severino, daughters of Kristin and Matt Severino of Scarsdale Golf Club. There to present the scholarship awards were Dick Gonyea's wife, Marge, and their daughters, Tracey and Holly.

### The Scholarship Award Winners

In addition to maintaining excellent GPAs, these students are all very involved in their communities and in numerous extracurric-



Eight of the 18 scholarship winners were able to attend this year's Awards Ceremony with their parents. They are, from left to right: Rick Krok of Storr Tractor Company and his wife Denise (back) with daughters, Jennifer and Jessica; Myles McHugh with his father, Steve Jordan (back) of DryJect Northeast; Glen Dube of Centennial GC with his daughter, Madison; Chris Caporicci of Cherry Valley Club with son Luke; David Pijnenburg (back) of Greenacres Company and daughter Jacqi; Matt Severino of Scarsdale Golf Club, with daughters Kathryn and Melissa.

ular activities. The depth of talent possessed by the applicants for the MetGCSA scholarships this year is truly inspiring. 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:

**Andrew Ashfield,** son of Karla and Tom Ashfield of Quaker Ridge Golf Club, is attending Michigan State University where he is majoring in Accounting.

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

Savanna Dorsch, daughter of Misty and Rob Dorsch of Richter Park Golf Course, is attending University of South Carolina where she is majoring in Communications and Advertising.

**Rebecca Drohen,** daughter of Donalee and Andy Drohen of Koch Agronomic Services, is attending Fairfield University and pursuing a degree in International Business and Marketing.

Madison Dube, daughter of Centennial Golf Club's Glen Dube, is attending University of Rhode Island and pursuing a degree in Kinesiology with future plans to complete a doctorate in Physical Therapy.

**John "Tucker" Genovesi,** son of Elizabeth and John Genovesi of the Maidstone Club, is attending High Point University, and is pursuing a degree in Sports Management.

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

**Emma Halderman**, daughter of Kristen and Blake Halderman of Brae Burn Country Club, is attending University of South Carolina and is majoring in Hospitality Management.

**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 with an emphasis in Multimedia Journalism.

**Jennifer Krok**, daughter of Denise and Rick Krok of Storr Tractor Company, is attending Delaware University where she is pursuing a degree in Sports Health.

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

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

**Julia Lippman**, daughter of Laura and Bob Lippman of Westchester Turf Supply, is attending Fordham University where is majoring in Business & Fashion.

**Josephine Marcinek**, daughter of Gretchen and Darrell Marcinek, is attending St. Thomas Aquinas College, and is majoring in Kinesiology & Business.

**Myles McHugh,** son of Kristine Mc-Hugh and Steve Jordan of DryJect North East, is attending Lycoming College and majoring in World of Fisheries.

Jacqi Pijnenburg, daughter of Sharon and David Pijnenburg of Greenacres Company, is attending Roger Williams University where she is majoring in Environmental Engineering with a minor in Mathematics.

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

Melissa Severino, daughter of Kristin and Matt Severino of Scarsdale Golf Club, is attending Skidmore College and is pursuing a degree in Health & Human Physiological Sciences.

In addition to congratulating our 18 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 close to \$30,000 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!

Mike Brunelle, Scholarship & Research Committee chair, is director of grounds at Upper Montclair Country Club in Clifton, NJ.

#### A Bit About Dick Gonyea

Dick was an active member of the MetGCSA and served on the Board as secretary and vice president. He spent over 33 years as the golf course superintendent at Rye Golf Club.

"Dick Gonyea was a true gentleman, a superintendent's superintendent," says Chip Lafferty, Rye's current superintendent. "He never shied away from asking for help and also never hesitated to help a fellow superintendent or another human being in need. That was the type of guy Dick was. I feel a special connection following in his footsteps as Rye's superintendent."

Prior to Dick's position at Rye, he was employed by the Plandome Country Club in Long Island. He was a graduate of the University of Massachusetts, Stockbridge School of Agriculture with an associate's degree in Turf Management.

Dick passed away July 2021, and his family set up a scholarship fund in memory of Dick. The Gonyea family was very grateful to the MetGCSA for the scholarship awards they received and wanted to return the kindness with a contribution of \$1600.

Special thanks go out to the Gonyea family, Marge, Dick's wife, and two daughters, Tracey and Holly, for joining us for the presentation of their special scholarship in Dick's honor.

## **Upcoming Events**

## **Upcoming MetGCSA and Industry Events**

#### **Fall Education Seminar**

Thursday, November 10 Fenway Golf Club Scarsdale, NY Host: Rob Alonzi

#### **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 Host: David Dudones

#### **Industry Events**

## 2022 GREEN EXPO Turf & Landscape Conference

Tuesday — Thursday, December 6 — 8 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.

## 26th Annual New England Regional Turfgrass Conference and Show

Tuesday – Thursday, March 7 – 9 Rhode Island Convention Center Providence, RI

For the 26th consecutive year, the conference and show provides turfgrass professionals from all areas of the industry the opportunity to see the newest products, supplies, services, and equipment available while offering a host of informative educational sessions, pesticide recertification credits, and endless networking opportunities.

Watch for details on www.NERTF.org, or call 401–841–5490 for further information.

## New York Golf Course Foundation Makes Great Strides

by Ken Benoit, CGCS Executive Director, New York Golf Course Foundation

irst, I'd like to start by introducing the new members of the New York Golf Course Foundation's (NYGCF) Board of Directors: Steve Kurta (New York Golf Course Superintendents Association), Evan Weymouth (Hudson Valley Golf Course Superintendents Association), Tim Benedict (Long Island Golf Course Superintendents Association), and Jesse Shannon (Metropolitan Golf Course Superintendents Association). On behalf of the foundation board, I'd like to say welcome and thank you for volunteering your valuable time to our superintendent-operated foundation.

I would also like to take a minute to remind everyone that Golf BMPs are extremely useful in helping achieve your agronomic goals in a way that protects water resources. Whether you are treating for ABW, putting together a nutrient management plan, or trying to determine what chemical is the most effective on a pest while having the least impact on the environment (Environmental Impact Quotient, i.e., EIQ), there is no doubt that the New York State Golf Course BMPs are there to guide you in establishing a reasonable, environmentally sound solution.

The Pollinator BMP has been a critical addition to the Golf BMPs. As one of the TESF grant tasks, we initiated a honeybee evaluation study designed to explore the impact golf has on the honeybee. The results indicate that there are significant benefits drawn from the relationship with very little risk to the honeybee. You can read more about the evaluation study on our website.

The foundation has also started forming its strategic plan for the next five years. This plan is ever-evolving, but the basic drivers will remain the same: education, research, and outreach.

#### **Brimming With Useful Content**

The even better news is that the NYGCF's new-and-improved website and YouTube channel are chockful of useful content created with the backing of the Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship Fund (TESF). Carl Schimenti and Frank Rossi, for instance, completed two publications for the TESF, Using Predictive Models for Controlling Dollar Spot and Converting Fairways to Bentgrass. These publications are available in print form and will be handed out at specified association meetings. A downloadable form will also be available on our website, nysgolfbmp.cals.cornell.edu, later this year.

Among the new videos posted on the New York Golf Course Foundation's You-Tube channel are *How to Develop a Nutrient Management Plan*, created by Carl Schimenti, and *How to Develop a Surface Water Quality Testing Program*, created by yours truly. Both 10-minute videos are full of helpful information.

### **Golf Facility BMPs Brought to Life**

Also new to the YouTube channel is video content from interviews I recorded last summer while riding my bike across the State of New York as a part of my Connect to Protect, New York Tour. In these interview-based videos, you will listen to your peers from around the State of New York sharing their perspectives on the value of facility adoption of BMPs and why BMPs are critical to the future success of our industry.

They bring the BMPs to life by providing specific examples of best management practices these superintendents have incorporated into their own management programs. These examples range from simple and inexpensive to complex, relating, for instance, to constructing a new maintenance facility. A big thank you to all these

guys for taking the time to provide their perspective and encouragement to all of us.

We completed the "How to" series of videos with a detailed description of the process for using the GCSAA's online tool to download the facility BMP template, which is the first step in creating a BMP document for your own facility.

The 2022/23 TESF grant we received is designed to further assist superintendents in creating their facility BMP document. This winter, for instance, the NYGCF will conduct a series of one-day workshops around the State of New York, which will provide superintendents with the opportunity to easily create a version of their BMP document. Look for more information regarding this project later this fall.

In addition to the workshops, we will help one superintendent from each region of New York create their own BMP document. We hope that by demonstrating how simple it is to complete a basic BMP document and then pointing to the valuable assistance the document can provide in agronomic decision making, more superintendents will be motivated to complete their own BMP document.

### **Keeping Current**

Information moves fast, and what was once current becomes outdated in a flash. With that in mind, look for us to continually update our content and stay in front of the demands of our everchanging environment. Nonetheless, through every NYGCF initiative, we are guided by our mission statement: "To protect and preserve New York State water resources and sustain and enhance open space using current scientific advances in golf turfgrass management."

Here's to a great finish to the 2022 season, and remember to do your part in protecting our state's natural resources.



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