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# Tee to Green



Cover: *The Tuxedo Club.*

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# President's Message

## A Morning in the Life of a Superintendent

### *It Isn't Half Bad*



If you're like me, you start the day off pretty early. Generally, I'm in the car and on my way to work just as it's getting light out—when you still need your headlights but can see a thing or two. I really enjoy the morning commute. I stop, get my daily cup of coffee at Seven Eleven. (I told them I was president of the MetGCSA, and they still charge me \$1.60. . . . The nerve.) It takes me only 15 minutes or so from there to get to the course.

No puddles alongside the road, so I know it didn't rain. The air is nice and cool, even though it's going to be in the 90s today. I have my radio tuned to 770 on the AM dial to get the latest weather forecast. I remember the days of my youth when I would hop in my father's car and he'd have the AM station on. . . . I couldn't stand it. Now when my daughter gets in the car, she instantly reaches for the dial. "No Rap," I tell her. She then informs me that it's Hip Hop. I guess I'm out of touch with today's youth or really old—or both.

Instead of pulling in to the shop, I detour and start to drive through the course. The road is wet behind eleven tee. (Good start.) I sneak along the cart path past ten green, around the clubhouse, and down the first fairway. It's narrow; we keep it just wide enough for my jeep. Everything looks good. No stuck heads. Roads, bunkers, trees are all wet where they're supposed to be. (An even better start.) A crisp dew has formed, emphasizing the difference between rough and fairways.

No deer today. Sometimes I have to chase them out of the wildflower areas. But no sign of them now. Geese have been nonexistent. Maybe they've been driven away by the family of coyotes that have a den to the left of the fourteenth fairway. The coyotes solve one problem and create another. It turned out those pesky animals were chewing our directional ropes. At first, we thought it was vandalism. Every rope was cut in several locations. Then we noticed teeth marks on the tops of the stakes. The only thing we could think of was that the cubs were teething. Hey, if they keep the geese away, I guess we'll live with a few chewed stakes. Now, we just paint white lines across the fair-

**Matt Ceplo, CGCS**  
*MetGCSA President*

ways to let carts know when they're getting too close to the greens. It's easier than the ropes anyway.

When I get to the shop, our mechanic and foreman are already pulling out equipment. I walk through the door and I'm greeted by J-Pat. He gives me his "Buenos dias" while he sips his coffee. J-Pat is our divot man. To be politically correct, he is developmentally impaired, but he's one of our star employees. He works three hours a day, five days a week, and can tell you anything you want to know about the Yankees. He's always early and ready to work. When we hired J-Pat, we thought we were doing him a favor. It turns out that he has done more for us than we could ever do for him. If you have the opportunity to hire or work with someone like J-Pat, I would strongly encourage you to do so.

Next stop, my computer. I fire it up first thing. The first page to come up is the Weather Channel. (The Met's website is second.) A quick look at the map tells me there's no rain in sight. I make a recording of daily course conditions for the members. A few more minutes goes by and all the staff is here. They look at the daily worksheet, find out their respective assignments, and by 6:05, the shop is empty except for me and the mechanic. Looks like the start of a great day.

I really do enjoy my a.m. commute and easing into my daily routine as the sun comes up. There's nothing like sunrise on a golf course (except, maybe, sunset!). So when the going gets tough—and, of course, it often does this time of year—I just picture myself starting my day, as many other professionals do, getting suited up, hopping a crowded commuter train, and then switching on my computer in a windowless office, virtually sealed off from the outside. That makes even the most challenging day seem not half bad.

Hope your season's been filled with good starts. And let's all hope for a strong finish.

**Matt Ceplo**  
*President*



# The Highs and Lows of Preparing for a PGA Tour Event

*Tee to Green Gets the Inside Scoop From  
Veteran Tour Host Joe Alonzi*

by David Dudones

*W*hat is it like to prepare for a PGA Tour event? Who better to ask than longtime Met member and Westchester Country Club Superintendent Joe Alonzi, CGCS. Joe is in the throes of preparing to host his 16th PGA Tour stop—an event now known as The Barclays, reflecting its change in sponsors over the years (see box on page 4).

Scheduled for August 23 – 26, this year's tournament—the first round of the inaugural PGA Tour playoffs for the FedEx Cup—will be hotly contested on the club's challenging West Course. Designed in 1929 by Walter Travis for championship play, the West Course has been host to PGA tournaments since 1963, beginning with a three-time event known as the Thunderbird Classic.

In the coming years, The Barclays will be played at rotating sites in the New York Metropolitan Area. Westchester Country Club will continue to host the majority, but not all of the annual stops in the New York region.

In the following Q&A, Joe gives us a before-and-after snapshot of what it takes to host a PGA Tour event . . . personally and professionally.



*Westchester Country Club Superintendent Joe Alonzi looking cool, calm, and collected before the serious PGA Tour prep begins.*

**Tee to Green:** *Joe, this will be your 16th PGA Tour event. In the past, you've hosted these events and always had a great field for the tournament. Now, you're hosting the first round of the FedEx Cup. What changes will we see?*

**Joe Alonzi:** First let me explain that the FedEx Cup is a championship trophy for the PGA Tour. It's the first time that men's professional golf will have playoffs. Sponsored by Federal Express, it's a pretty prestigious and lucrative individual points competition that began in January and is culminating in August and September with the first-ever playoff series comprised of four tournaments.

Our tournament, The Barclays, will be the first of these four and will include the top 144 points leaders on tour. That means Phil Mickelson, Vijay Singh, Ernie Els, and Tiger Woods will all be here at Westchester Country Club vying for the \$10 million prize awarded at the end of the four weeks.

With this being the first week of the FedEx Cup, we'll probably see the largest crowds we've ever seen. There will also be some major changes to the Corporate Village and grandstands to accommodate the anticipated larger crowds.

**Tee to Green:** *During your tenure, this PGA Tour event has always been held in June. How does the switch to August affect you?*

**Joe Alonzi:** One major challenge with having the tournament late in the season will be keeping my staff motivated. We've been working at almost PGA Tour prep now. It might not be 16- to 18-hour days, but there are many 12- to 14-hour days to keep the course in good shape for the members. By the last week of August when the tournament begins, the guys will be tired and pretty burned out. My challenge will be to keep them going right through those four days and finish the season strong. This time of year, a staff barbecue at the shop or a local fishing trip can sometimes help refresh the spirits of the crew.

**Tee to Green:** *And the turf . . . mid to late August is a difficult time to grow grass in the Northeast. What steps are you taking to keep the turf alive and well—to meet the members' and PGA Tour standards?*

**Joe Alonzi:** Anyone who's been in the business a long time knows that Mother Nature dictates where we'll be. We, of course, will put our best foot forward, do the best job we can, and hopefully be worthy of the tournament.

Knowing that The Barclays was being shifted to August, we did improve our irrigation system, adding two rows to water rough. That then meant we had to invest in four additional wells since we barely had enough water to sustain our old system. These new wells will deliver 300 gpm, which should easily offset the water requirements from the new sprinklers.

We've also beefed up our spray budget so we have the ability to treat the rough—and still cover sprays for *Pythium* and dollar spot, which are prevalent on our mixture of grasses this time of year.

The other step we've taken is to increase our fertility to help keep the heavy rough a staple of the tournament.

**Tee to Green:** *The West Course usually does around 25,000 rounds a year. Have you limited any member rounds or outings on the West Course this year to allow you to prepare?*

**Joe Alonzi:** No . . . and no. There's only one Monday throughout the heart of the season without an outing, and member play will finish the Sunday before, with the last round of the Club Championship.

The members felt they would have the best possible conditions the week before The Barclays. I just hope that with the rough being so high for their final rounds they're not upset with their inflated scores.

**Tee to Green:** *I know you rely on the help of volunteers during the tournament every year. Who, exactly, volunteers? Where do they come from? How many do you typically have on board, and what kinds of things do they do to help?*

**Joe Alonzi:** We've had as many as 60 volunteers coming from as far north as Oak Hill in Rochester, and as far south as Augusta National. Typically, we rely on the local assistants and some superintendents to help with things like filling divots, pruning trees along the rope lines, preparing bunkers, and continuing to maintain the South Course. Peter Rappoccio and my brother, Bob, have been doing setup on the South Course for the Wednesday Pro Am for as long as I can remember.

I can't thank enough all the superintendents who donate time, equipment, and manpower to help us out every year. We've had many wet years where I think every squeegee in Westchester County was made available to get the job done. A lot of superintendents in the area have worked at Westchester at one time or another and know what a difficult operation this can be. Their help year to year is greatly appreciated.

**Tee to Green:** *Can you share one story—humorous or just notable—about your experience hosting the PGA Tour event over the years?*

**Joe Alonzi:** My favorite story was during my first year. It was during a practice round on Tuesday, I think. I was on the 12th green (3 West) with my assistants at the time, Steve Sweet and Jeff Wentworth, when we see this guy running toward us inside the ropes with ripped shorts and a T-shirt on. So I go over to the guy and tell him he's not allowed to be here and to get outside the ropes. The guy looks at me and says, "But I'm a player." I walk back to the boys and tell them that the





guy said he was a player. Jeff and Steve laugh. “Yah, Joe, we know,” they say. “That’s Phil Mickelson, the new hot shot on tour. We just wanted to see you kick him off.”

**Tee to Green:** *It was just announced that after next year The Barclays will move to Liberty National in New Jersey and return at least one more time to Westchester before 2011. Are you looking forward to giving the course a rest for the first time since 1967?*

**Joe Alonzi:** I’ll be interested to see what we can do here without the intrusion of bleachers, tents, trucks, forklifts, etc. I think the members will be in for a treat to have a few years like that. At the same time, though, I’ll be sad to see the tournament leave because of the great things it does for charity and the businesses in the community. It affects all of Westchester County, really.

**Tee to Green:** *We’ve talked, here, about the planning and preparation involved in hosting an event of this magnitude. What we haven’t touched on is how this kind of Herculean effort affects you personally. What are the highs and lows? How do you weather the incredible stress?*

**Joe Alonzi:** The highs are obvious. If you put out a good product, the exposure on TV is very nice for both my staff and the members at the club. Also the relationships and camaraderie I’ve developed over the years with the tour officials and staff always makes me look forward to this time of year.

The major low is the letdown you feel when the tournament is done. When the adrenaline rush is over, it feels like you were just hit by an 18-wheeler.

Yah, it’s stressful. But really, the membership demands quality all year long, so finding ways to relieve stress and reenergize myself and my staff is an ongoing battle. For me, taking a long ride on my Harley usually does the trick. It’s how I relieve stress throughout the year and finish the season strong.

**A scene from the 2006 Barclays Classic: Superintendent Joe Alonzi and his staff muster the volunteer troops for a day of tournament prep.**

★★ If interested in volunteering for this year’s tournament, please call Donna at 914-798-5360★★

*Dave Dudones, co-editor of the Tee to Green, is superintendent at North Jersey Country Club in Wayne, NJ.*

## The Barclays: An Historic Perspective

The Barclays is the golf tournament on the PGA Tour played at Westchester Country Club in Rye, NY.

The tournament began in 1967 as the Westchester Classic. Starting in 1976, it underwent a series of name changes with a shift in sponsorship (detailed below). The name of the event has evolved to the point that, since 1990, it no longer contains the name of its host course or location. Like many events that have undergone a series of name changes over the years, among golfers on tour and many fans, it is still known by its traditional name, “The Westchester.”

The tournament had its greatest attendance in 2001 when Tiger Woods participated, despite the two days of heavy rain that disrupted play. It had one of its more

exciting finishes in 2005, when Pádraig Harrington eagled the par-5 18th hole with a 65-foot putt to win the title. The most frequent winner of the tournament is Vijay Singh, with three trophies.

Always held during June of each year, this year’s tournament has shifted to August to lead off the PGA Tour’s new playoff system for the FedEx Cup.

### Name Changes Through the Years

1967–1975 ~ Westchester Classic  
 1976–1978 ~ American Express  
 Westchester Classic  
 1979–1989 ~ Manufacturers Hanover  
 Westchester Classic  
 1990–2004 ~ Buick Classic  
 2005–2006 ~ Barclays Classic  
 2007 ~ The Barclays

## Mark Chant Gives Met Members a Chance to Play the Newly Renovated Colonial Springs

by Glen Dube, CGCS

This year's Met Championship and Met Area Team Championship Qualifier will be held on September 11 at Colonial Springs Golf Club in Farmingdale, NY. Our host, Superintendent Mark Chant, has graciously offered his club for this action-packed event.

Participants will be vying for the coveted Met Championship and attempting to qualify for the prestigious Met Area Team Championship, which will be held at nearby Bethpage Black in October.

### Quite a Course

Colonial Springs opened in 1995, originally as a high-end, daily-fee course. Designed by Arthur Hills, the 27-hole golf course was divided into three distinct nine-hole courses, each one named appropriately, Pine, Valley, and Lake.

Within seven years, the management decided to convert Colonial Springs to a private club. Knowing they would have to improve the course to compete with the many great golf courses on Long Island, they enlisted Robert Trent Jones II to develop a master plan. Now fully private, the club has 350 members who are very proud of the course.

Mark arrived at Colonial Springs in January 2005, just in time to set the master plan into motion. To say that, in his brief tenure, he's been "a little busy" is a gross understatement. Mark hit the ground running and hasn't stopped.

"In 2005 and 2006," he explains, "we renovated 15 of the 27 holes under Trent Jones. The work included 15 tee complexes, 65 bunkers, two USGA greens, seven acres of fairway renovation, and the addition of about 20 acres of fescue mounding."

In 2005, two holes on Lake and four holes on Valley were renovated. In 2006, the club closed all of Pine, leaving not one hole untouched. "The 6th and 7th holes were the most dramatically changed," says Mark. "In fact, they were completely rebuilt, tee to green."

And as if that isn't enough, Colonial Springs is currently in the midst of building a practice green and short game area!

### Superintendent in the Making

Mark, a native of Berlin, CT, has been in the business for 14 years. He completed a B.S. in horticulture at the University of Connecticut in 1996, gaining valuable experience during the summers at two of his hometown courses.

In '93, he worked the season at Shuttle Meadow Country Club, under the tutelage of Bob Silva, the club's longtime, now retired superintendent. The next three seasons, Mark spent learning the ropes at Berlin's Timberlin Golf Course. By the time he graduated, he was well prepared for the next step and accepted his first assistant's position at Nashawtuc Country Club in Concord, MA.

"Nashawtuc was a great training ground," says Mark, who was the assistant there in '97 and '98. "The club hosts a senior tour event every year, so I learned a lot about prepping for a major tournament." Apparently, Paul Miller, the club's superintendent, also taught Mark a thing or two. "Paul has great people skills, which I tried to pick up and apply," says Mark.

From there, Mark moved back to his Connecticut roots, accepting the assistant's position at Aspetuck Valley Country Club in Weston, CT. For two seasons, he worked under the guidance of Scott May, who is now at Manufacturers Club, just outside Philadelphia. "He was a great guy. He prepared me to become a superintendent," says Mark, who took over as Aspetuck's superintendent when Scott left for the Philly area. Mark worked at the club through the end of 2004, when he



Mark Chant

accepted his current position at Colonial Springs on Long Island.

### When He Takes Off His Hard Hat

When Mark isn't busy rebuilding half his course, he enjoys coming home to his wife of seven years, Shannon, and their three young children: Jake 4, Guilia 3, and Elizabeth 1. Besides sporting a single-digit handicap, Mark enjoys spending time at the beach and hitting the slopes in the winter.

Before hitting the links on September 11, I thought we could all use a pointer or two, so I asked Mark to let us in on the secret to playing well at Colonial Springs. His advice: "Keep it in the fairway, and avoid the large bunkers and fescue."

Right. Well, I hope everyone is able to come out and compete on what promises to be an interesting golf course and a fun day.

*Glen Dube, a frequent contributor to the Tee to Green, is superintendent at Centennial Golf Club in Carmel, NY.*

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## Tim Garceau Keeps a Close Eye on The Tuxedo Club

by Greg Wojick, CGCS

Ever hear the golfing phrase, “Keep your eye on the ball”? Well, at The Tuxedo Club, the site of our October 9 Superintendent/Green Chairperson Tournament, this expression has particular significance.

In the club’s storied history, a past president, Walker Breese Smith, had not only a fierce competitive streak, but also an unusual sense of humor. He decided, one day, to unnerve his opponent from the St. Andrew’s Golf Club by pulling out his glass eye, placing it on top of his golf ball, and smashing it down the fairway.

The wealthy Smith apparently carried an arsenal of glass eyes with him, so he was able to repeat this odd ritual on every tee. Needless to say, his opponent from St. Andrew’s was shaken and soundly defeated that day. But this is just one of many points of interest about the 122-year-old Tuxedo Club.

### A Colorful Beginning

The word Tuxedo is the anglicized Indian name for the lake “P-tuck Sepo.” It means “the home of the bear,” an appropriate description of what, at the turn of the century, was called “the most difficult links to negotiate in the country.”

The club began as the brainchild of Pierre Lorillard in 1885, when he amassed a work crew of 1,800 and, in eight months, built 30 miles of roads, a complete water and sewage system, 22 turreted cottages, two blocks of stores, and the clubhouse itself.

The total cost was \$1.5 million, amazingly low by today’s standards. The price tag rose to \$2 million as the club built a golf course, race track, and mile-long toboggan slide.

The Tuxedo Club soon became a fashionable playground for New York’s upper social strata, most of whom also built homes there. The social highlight of the season was the Autumn Ball, which doubled as a season-ending celebration and coming-out party for debutantes. The initial Autumn Ball, in 1886, also marked the first appearance in this country of the tail-less dinner jacket, destined to become known as ... the tuxedo!

### More Recent History

As it stands today, the club is an 18-hole Robert Trent Jones Sr. layout—one of the architect’s first designs, in fact—that measures 6,807 yards from the back tees (par 71). The first hole has been described as one of the most challenging and intimidating in the Met Area, displaying Jones’s signature blend of the penal, strategic, and heroic schools of architecture.

Though founded in 1885, the club’s current layout was constructed in 1956, after the New York Thruway cut a wide swath through the golf course, virtually swallowing all but four holes. But the Thruway and the Tappan Zee Bridge may actually have helped revive the club, making it more accessible to nearby counties.

### And Now, About Our Host

Tim Garceau, our meeting host, has been Tuxedo’s superintendent since 1995—making him only the third person to manage the course since its inception. Tim succeeded Carney McGrady, whose tenure spanned an amazing 40 years!

Originally from Wood Ridge, NJ, Tim began his career in the green industry—just on a different side of the business. He completed a B.S. in ornamental horticulture in 1981 at Colorado University, relocated to Denver, and then launched into a career with Chemlawn, as an assistant branch manager of their lawn care division.

When it became obvious that Colorado’s economy was flagging, Tim opted to return to New Jersey. He accepted an assistant’s



Tim Garceau

position with then Superintendent Ed Walsh at Ridgewood Country Club, just in time for the USGA Senior Open. “It was a great learning experience, not only working for Ed, but also prepping the course for the Open,” says Tim.

After two years at Ridgewood, Tim earned his entrée into superintendentdom at the Orange County Golf Club. He stayed on for three years before accepting his current position at Tuxedo.

“Tim immediately had a big impact on the course and the club,” says MGA Executive Director Jay Mattola, who was a co-green chairman when Tim was hired. “Tim’s accomplished a constant stream of improvement projects and has brought the conditions here from good to outstanding,” Jay adds, speaking from a place of experience. Jay, apparently, worked on the Tuxedo grounds crew, himself, when he was a kid.

### Change, Change, Change

Among the more impressive improvement projects Tim’s managed in his tenure was the recent construction of an all-new mainte-



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## Member News

*A Special  
Thank You*

nance facility complex, complete with a golf administration building.

Over the years, Tim has also installed more than five miles of drainage pipe and drained a good number of the greens in the XGD fashion. "We've also renovated just about every length of cart path, rebuilt 20 of our 43 tees, and, five years ago, rebuilt all the bunkers, complete with new drainage," explains Tim. Being on the cutting edge of golf course maintenance practices, Tim has also initiated a topdressing program on eight of his fairways.

Tim's quick to acknowledge the fine work of his two assistants—Matt Bollato, who he convinced eight seasons ago to give up teaching to work full-time at Tuxedo, and Rob Lehman, who signed on in March. "I don't know what I'd do without them," says Tim, noting also that his son, Austin, has been a valued crew member for the past three summers.

### Tim Behind the Scenes

Tim lives with his wife of 21 years, Mariane, and his two children—Austin, 17, and Sarah, 15. Oh, and we can't forget their dirt bikes. In years past, the family would ride together, but now, Tim and his son are the most avid bikers, getting "airborne" together as often as possible.

When he's not motocrossing through the wild on his Honda 250, Tim might be pursuing one of his other passions—playing hoops in an outdoor summer league two to three times a week, smacking the hockey puck around the rink (he's an avid hockey player and fan), or teeing it up with a Met member or two on an area course.

Speaking of golf... the course at Tuxedo has five lakes and a stream, and water is a factor on 12 of the holes. So it only seems prudent that everyone keep their eye on the ball when playing the course. Tim Garceau, we trust, will be keeping his eye on getting the course in tip-top shape for our October 9 meeting.

*Greg Wojick, a member of the Tee to Green Editorial Committee, is superintendent at Greenwich Country Club in Greenwich, CT.*

*M*

e'd like to recognize and thank two of our affiliate members who have made thoughtful—and much appreciated—contributions to our association.

First, we'd like to thank **Ron Cutlip** of Cutlip Golf Design, who donated \$2,500 to our association in appreciation for the help he received from Met members in maintaining the "Greens at Rockefeller Center" from May 1–12.

Second, we'd like to recognize **Scott Apgar** of Metro Turf Specialists who, for a second consecutive year, donated a portion of Metro's sales of Quali-Pro products to our association. Both Metro's check of \$790.50 and Ron Cutlip's donation have been allocated to the Met's Scholarship Fund.

Many, many thanks, again, Ron and Scott. Your support means so much to us.

### Members on the Move

**Dennis Petruzzelli** is the new superintendent at Putnam National Golf Club in Mahopac, NY. Previous position: Sales rep, Metro Turf Specialists, Danbury, CT.

### New Members

Please join us in welcoming the following new members:

**Ryan Batz**, Class A, Trump National Golf Club, Briarcliff Manor, NY.

**Andrew Herold**, Class C, Centennial Golf Club, Carmel, NY.

### Retired

Congratulations to **Chuck Martineau**, who has recently become a Life A member. Chuck, a MetGCSA member since 1968 and a past president of our association, retired after 38 years as golf course superintendent at The Whippoorwill Club in Armonk, NY.

### In Sympathy

It is with deep regret that we announce the death of **Bob Tosh**, who many tri-

state area superintendents remember well from his 20-year tenure at Rockrimmon Country Club in Stamford, CT. Bob was a member of the Connecticut AGCS, receiving their Superintendent of the Year Award in 1988, and an active and well-respected member of the Met and New Jersey associations.

Bob's career as superintendent has taken him to clubs as far away as the West Indies and as near as Connecticut, New Jersey, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire, the state where he and his wife, Helen, lived happily for many years in Sunapee.

Bob passed away June 29 at the age of 72 after a courageous battle with cancer. Our sincere condolences to Bob's wife, Helen, and their family. Donations can be made in his name to either of the following organizations:

- Pediatric Hematology and Oncology, Children's Hospital at Dartmouth (CHaD), Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center, CHaD/DHMC Development Office, One Medical Center Drive, Lebanon, NH 03756 (Please make your check payable to CHaD)
- Norris Cotton Cancer Center, One Medical Center Drive, Lebanon, New Hampshire 03756

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## Brian Chapin to Host 2007 MetGCSA Assistants Championship

by Dave Moffett

After a successful event last year, it's time once again for the annual MetGCSA Assistants Championship. On Thursday, October 11, Brian Chapin and Dellwood Country Club will be the proud hosts of this year's tournament.

### The Club

Dellwood Country Club is nestled in the heart of the Hudson Valley in the town of New City just minutes off the Palisades Parkway. It's here that the Paramount Pictures founder Adolph Zukor purchased 800 acres of land from the State of New York. Zukor—despite his obvious success—was a simple man who envisioned a place for him and his friends to play.

In 1923, he hired famed Golf Course Architect A.W. Tillinghast to design an 18-hole championship course and invested in a night house (Zukor's term for guest quarters), movie theater, and clubhouse. It's on this same property that the original *Tarzan* movie was filmed. Today, most of the original stone buildings remain and are still in use.

Brian boasts that Dellwood is "a fun course with fast, sloped greens that put an emphasis on quality shot making to keep the ball below the hole." Says Brian, "There's no particular signature hole, but what makes this course unique are the par 3s at the end of both nines. Number 9," he continues, "is 170 yards over water from the blue tees. The green is protected on all sides by four, deep greenside bunkers. Number 18," he goes on

to explain, "is 190 yards uphill from the blue tees to a tricky, sloped green that's protected by four deep greenside bunkers."

Well, it sounds like the Met area assistants are going to be in for a challenging day.

### The Man

Brian grew up in the small town of Cumberland, ME, where he spent his summers working at The Woodlands Club, an 18-hole Fazio design, in Falmouth, ME.

"I enjoyed working outdoors," he says, "and helping to create an experience that others could enjoy and be proud of." While at The Woodlands, Brian was prodded by others in the business to pursue a career in golf course management and found his way to an internship at The Ridgewood Country

*Our Dellwood Country Club hosts (left to right): Superintendent Joe Gardner with assistants Brian Chapin and Jake Parchen.*

Club in Paramus, NJ. He began the job in the spring of 2001, working for Superintendent Todd Raisch to help prep the course for the 2001 Senior PGA Championship.

During the winter of that year, Brian pursued formal training at UMass Amherst. He transferred in the fall of 2002 to the Rutgers Professional Golf Turf Management Program. While completing his certificate, he accepted an internship at Arcola Country Club, working side-by-side with Superintendent Barney Misiura and later Joe Kinlin.

Having proved his mettle, Brian was hired at the season's end as the club's full-time second assistant. He stayed on at Arcola for two years before accepting his current position as first assistant at Dellwood in 2005, working under Superintendent Joe Gardner (profile, right).



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# Joe Gardner Is 'Psyched' for Assistants Championship

by Dave Moffett

"Dellwood is a great place to work," says Brian. "I've been able to learn a lot from Joe, and we have a great staff and fun membership."

In 2006, Brian expanded his horizons a little bit further by offering up his services at the U.S. Open at Winged Foot. His charge: "Professional Bunker Raker."

"It was an inspiring experience," Brian says. "It definitely taught me a thing or two about the pursuit of perfection in conditioning and professionalism."

## Personals

Brian lives on-property in the club's original night house. "It was the place where old-time celebrities like Charlie Chaplin would stay," he says of the historic site.

Like most turf professionals, Brian's spare time is generally limited to one time of year: the winter, of course. That's when, in addition to spending time with his longtime girlfriend, Zoya, he enjoys all the "ings" of life: fishing, golfing, skiing, and rocking out on the guitar, an instrument he learned to play in high school.

Come October, the assistant Met members will look forward to rocking out on the finely groomed links at Dellwood—thanks to Brian and Second Assistant Jake Parchen, who's been at Dellwood since 2005. The course is in great shape and will, no doubt, provide for a challenging, fun day of golf.

See you all there!

Joe Gardner, Dellwood's superintendent since 2003, is more than pleased to have this year's Annual Assistants Championship come to the club. Joe, after all, has nothing but high praise for his two assistants, who technically, will be hosting the October 11 event.

"It is fantastic working with Brian and Jake," says Joe. "They're two enthusiastic guys, passionate about creating good conditions. They understand what goes into it and what it takes to be successful. Coming from Maine and Montana (respectively)," Joe continues, "they are two great individuals who bring a lot of experience with them. I believe we've meshed very well over the years."

## Snapshot of the Super

Joe grew up in Danville, OH, working on golf courses through his high school years. He didn't, however, pursue the educational track typical of most superintendents—at first. Joe received a B.S. in psychology from Otterbein College in Ohio.

Then, after graduating, he put his degree aside (though he's, no doubt, put it to good use over the years) to accept a position on the crew at The Country Club at Muirfield Village in Dublin, OH. Three years later, Joe was elevated to assistant. It was at that point, in 2001, that he decided to pursue formal training in turfgrass management and completed his certificate at Rutgers.

Joe spent the next two years applying his training at the Lake Success Village Golf Course in Great Neck, NY, and then at Old Oaks, where he worked side-by-side with Superintendent Mark Millett. It was then

that Joe had the good fortune of meeting—and becoming best of friends with—Brian Benedict, assistant, then, at the nearby Century Country Club. "When Brian moved on to Seawane as superintendent and told me he had a construction opportunity there, it was an easy move," says Joe. "I spent three years at Seawane helping Brian in the transformation of all but the last five holes. It was great working with him," adds Joe.

Joe's time at Seawane was cut short by the opportunity to accept his first—and current—superintendent's position at Dellwood Country Club, a move he's more than happy to have made. "I've really enjoyed my time at Dellwood," says Joe. "I like the peacefulness of riding around in the morning before golfers arrive and being the last person on the golf course at night."

Joe's philosophy is simple: "Hard work and solid cultural practices will always pay off in the end." And it clearly has paid off at Dellwood. It's going to take more than a psychology degree for Met area assistants to read this course's severely sloping, fast greens!

Beyond being a superintendent, Joe's a husband and father, who enjoys spending his downtime with his wife, Margaret, and 3½ year-old daughter, Emma. Joe also enjoys hunting deer, small game, and pheasant. "I like the peace and quiet of it," explains Joe. "Being out there by myself reminds me of mornings on the golf course."

MetGCSA assistants are all looking forward to seeing Joe, Brian, and Jake in the morning on October 11.

*Dave Moffett, a member of the Tee to Green Editorial Committee, is assistant superintendent at the Round Hill Club in Greenwich, CT.*

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## Poa Annual's Winning Results

Contestants at the July 9 Poa Annual were treated to a fun—though hot and humid—day of golf, capped off by a superb steak dinner at The Powelton Club in Newburgh, NY. Host Superintendent Bob DeMarco and his staff did a great job preparing the course. Many, many thanks to the entire Powelton Club staff for putting together such an enjoyable—and worthwhile—event.

Proceeds from this 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.

This year's format was Two Best Balls, gross and net of the four, which made for great camaraderie and teamwork within the four-somes. Congratulations to the winners, one and all. Here's how they fared:

### First Place Gross

140 Blake Halderman, *Brae Burn CC*  
Glen Dube, *Centennial GC*  
Jason Ziesmer, *Manhattan Woods GC*  
Jon Barlock, *Turf Products Corp.*

### First Place Net

120 Dan Wilber, *Millbrook Golf & Tennis Club*  
Greg Moran, *Matrix Turf Solutions*  
Jason Werbalowsky, *Otterkill CC*  
Roy Waters, *The Powelton Club*

### Second Place Net

125 Tony Grasso, *Metropolis CC*  
Chuck Denny, *Salem GC*  
Tim Moore, *Knollwood CC*  
Earl Millett, *Ridgeway CC*

### Longest Drive

Paul Grabbe, *North Jersey CC*

### Closest to the Pin

Billy Buchanan, *William Buchanan & Assocs.*  
Blake Halderman, *Brae Burn CC*  
Tom Ashfield, *Quaker Ridge GC*  
Tim Joyce, *Metro Turf Specialists*  
— Ken Benoit, CGCS

## Going Head to Head in Round One of the 2007 Two-Ball Championship

We are through only the First Round of the Two-Ball and already it's the year of the upset. In the First Flight, it was split down the middle with four favorites and four underdogs winning, but the Second Flight was completely one-sided. We had seven out of eight underdogs in the Second Flight get through to the Second Round.

### Second Flight Notables

The biggest victory among the Second Flighters came from the #16 team of Dennis DeSanctis/Jason Ziesmer. They upset the #1 seed and last year's winners, Paul Gonzalez/Lou Quick, 2 up at Wykagyl. You can tell who has the new job in that group! He's been working too hard to keep up with even his 30 handicap. Maybe next year!

What else is very interesting about the Second Flight is that, somehow, they find a way to sandbag each other. Notice some of the scores: 7 & 6 ... 6 & 5 ... 5 & 4. I feel bad for the guys on the low end of the index range. A couple pars from a guy like Bob Nielsen and suddenly you're down 5 holes and losing 6 & 5.

After their performance in the Superintendent/Manager, I thought the Alonzi brothers—Bob and Joe—were going to be the team to beat, but now I think Bob Nielsen/Bill Perlee may give them a run in the second round. Greg Wojick/Mike Reeb also made quick work of their opponents, so that upper portion of the Second Flight will certainly have some great matches in the making.

In the bottom half, it's looking like the new team of Scott Appgar/Brett Chapin could be front runners; although there's a good chance to face off against another new team, Scott Ferguson/Jim Weiland. They'll be tough to beat.

### First Flight Particulars

In the First Flight, the scores were much closer with the biggest margin being 4 & 3 by both Glen Dube/Blake Halderman and Grover Alexander/Dave Dudones. We have a couple of new teams in the First Flight who will be facing off against each other in the next round: George Corgan/Ryan Batz vs. Greg Moran/Chris Smith. But for the most part, there are a lot of the old grinders who made it through.

Speaking of grinding, Scott Niven/Larry Pakkala were 2 down with 4 to go and somehow ended up winning 2 up against their good friends Rick Schock/Glenn Perry. They'll face off against the 2005 winners, Alexander & Dudones, while Dube and I get to face off against the team that beat us in last year's final: Tim Garceau/Ernie Steinhofner. Hopefully, we can get a little revenge.

Good luck to everyone, and most importantly, THANK YOU for getting out there and playing all the matches. It would be great to get all the way through without a coin toss.

Check out the following page for a full account of the First Round results and the Second Round Match Lineup.

— Blake Halderman, CGCS



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## First Round Results

### First Flight

- 1) Tim Garceau/Ernie Steinhof  
*The Tuxedo Club/Metro Turf Specialists*  
defeated 1 up
- 16) Sean Cain/Jeff Wentworth  
*Sunningdale CC/Pelham CC*
- 9) Glen Dube/Blake Halderman  
*Centennial GC/Brae Burn CC*  
defeated 4 & 3
- 8) Earl Millett/Bob DeMarco  
*Ridgeway CC/The Powelton Club*
- 12) Matt Ceplo/Jim Swiatlowski  
*Rockland CC/Montammy GC*  
defeated 1 up
- 5) Eddie Binsse/Dan Cancelleri  
*Waccabuc CC/J.A. Jackson Corp.*
- 13) Jon Barlock/Kevin Seibel  
*Turf Products Corp./Century CC*  
defeated 3 & 2
- 4) Tony Grasso/Scott Tretera  
*Metropolis CC/Harrell's Turf Specialty*
- 6) Chris Smith/Greg Moran  
*Hudson National GC/Matrix Turf Solutions*  
defeated 2 & 1
- 11) Andy Drohen/Tom Ashfield  
*Agrium Advanced Technologies/Quaker Ridge GC*
- 14) George Corgan/Ryan Batz  
*Steven Willand/Trump National GC/NY*  
defeated 4 & 2
- 3) Charlie Siemers/Anthony Hooks  
*Lesco, Inc./Pelham Bay/Split Rock GC*
- 7) Scott Niven/Larry Pakkala  
*The Stanwich Club/Woodway CC*  
defeated 2 up
- 10) Rick Schock/Glenn Perry  
*Aspetuck Valley CC/Rolling Hills CC*
- 2) Dave Dudones/Grover Alexander  
*North Jersey CC/Hudson Hills GC*  
defeated 4 & 3
- 15) Brian Benedict/Bob Lippman Jr.  
*Seawane Club/Westchester Turf Supply*

### Second Flight

- 16) Dennis DeSanctis/Jason Ziesmer  
*Syngenta/Manhattan Woods GC*  
defeated 2 up
- 1) Paul Gonzalez/Lou Quick  
*Canyon Club/Anglebrook GC*
- 9) Mike Reeb/Greg Wojick  
*CC of New Canaan/Greenwich CC*  
defeated 5 & 4
- 8) Tom Leahy/Mark Millett  
*Sleepy Hollow CC/Old Oaks CC*
- 5) Bob Alonzi/Joe Alonzi  
*Fenway GC/Westchester CC*  
defeated 2 up
- 12) Todd Polidor/Tim Moore  
*Somers Pointe GC/Knollwood CC*
- 13) Bob Nielsen/Bill Perlee  
*Bedford Golf & Tennis/Apawamis Club*  
defeated 6 & 5
- 4) Joe Gardner/Tom Weinert  
*Dellwood CC/Plant Food Company*
- 11) Chris Alonzi/Mike Cook  
*Elmwood CC/The Care of Trees*  
defeated 2 & 1
- 6) Rob Alonzi/Bill Bartels  
*St. Andrew's GC/Tanto Irrigation*
- 14) Scott Apgar/Brett Chapin  
*Metro Turf Specialists/Redding CC*  
defeated 7 & 6
- 3) Tony Campanella/Bill Middleton  
*Hampshire CC/Emerald Isle, Ltd.*
- 10) Joe Kennedy/Peter Waterous  
*Irra-Tech/Westchester Hills GC*  
defeated 1 up
- 7) Dennis Flynn/Peter Rappoccio  
*D&D Turfworks/Silver Spring CC*
- 2) Scott Ferguson/Jim Weiland  
*Mahopac GC/Shorehaven GC*  
defeated 3 & 1
- 15) Mark Griff/Steve Wirth  
*Richmond County CC/Cherry Valley CC*

## Second Round Match Lineup

### First Flight

- 1) Tim Garceau/Ernie Steinhof  
*The Tuxedo Club/Metro Turf Specialists*  
vs.
- 9) Glen Dube/Blake Halderman  
*Centennial GC/Brae Burn CC*
- 12) Matt Ceplo/Jim Swiatlowski  
*Rockland CC/Montammy GC*  
vs.
- 13) Jon Barlock/Kevin Seibel  
*Turf Products Corp./Century CC*
- 6) Chris Smith/Greg Moran  
*Hudson National GC/Matrix Turf Solutions*  
vs.
- 14) George Corgan/Ryan Batz  
*Steven Willand/Trump National GC/NY*
- 7) Scott Niven/Larry Pakkala  
*The Stanwich Club/Woodway CC*  
vs.
- 2) Dave Dudones/Grover Alexander  
*North Jersey CC/Hudson Hills GC*

### Second Flight

- 16) Dennis DeSanctis/Jason Ziesmer  
*Syngenta/Manhattan Woods GC*  
vs.
- 9) Mike Reeb/Greg Wojick  
*CC of New Canaan/Greenwich CC*
- 5) Bob Alonzi/Joe Alonzi  
*Fenway GC/Westchester CC*  
vs.
- 13) Bob Nielsen/Bill Perlee  
*Bedford Golf & Tennis/Apawamis Club*
- 11) Chris Alonzi/Mike Cook  
*Elmwood CC/The Care of Trees*  
vs.
- 14) Scott Apgar/Brett Chapin  
*Metro Turf Specialists/Redding CC*
- 10) Joe Kennedy/Peter Waterous  
*Irra-Tech/Westchester Hills GC*  
vs.
- 2) Scott Ferguson/Jim Weiland  
*Mahopac GC/Shorehaven GC*

### Upcoming Match Dates

Here's a reminder to complete your matches by the following dates:  
 Match 2 ~ July 27 (Are your results in?)  
 Match 3 ~ August 29  
 Final ~ September 28



## Upcoming Events

# Golf for a Worthy Cause

**S**uperintendent Brett Johnson, CGCS, and The International in Bolton, MA, will be hosts to this year's Joseph Troll Turf Classic on October 1. In its fourth year, the event is being sponsored by the Alumni Turf Group (ATG) and the GCSA of New England to raise funds for the UMass Turf Program.

### Recognizing a UMass Alum

In addition to treating participants to a day of golf, the fundraising event will continue its tradition of recognizing an accomplished UMass grad. This year's tournament honoree will be Golf Course Architect Geoffrey Cornish, who earned his master's in agronomy at UMass in 1950, taught at the Stockbridge School of Agriculture, and served as faculty resident at Butterfield dormitory from 1947-52. Cornish is credited with more than 250 golf course designs in the Northeast and has contributed 50 years of research, writing, and teaching on the art of golf course design.

"Selecting Mr. Cornish as this year's honoree came as naturally as the first, second, and last," says Alumni Turf Group President Steve Curry, referring to past honorees Dr. Joe Troll, the late Sherwood Moore, and Edward "Ted" Horton.

"Mr. Cornish is a great friend of Joe's, was best of friends with Sherwood, and encouraged Ted into the business. As a student, contributor, and historian of the game in this country, Mr. Cornish has no rival. Of the greatest relevance, we superintendents and alumni of the UMass Turf Program have no greater friend and consistent supporter."

Talking about the award, Steve adds, "This will continue a great annual tradition of honoring inspirational and accomplished alumni of the turf programs at the University of Massachusetts."

Entry forms, additional information for this event, and ATG information are available online at [www.alumniturfgroup.com](http://www.alumniturfgroup.com). Also feel free to contact Steve Curry directly at 413-329-4912 or [steve.curry@alumni-turfgroup.com](mailto:steve.curry@alumni-turfgroup.com).

# 2007 Met Events

*Lots More to Go!*

**W**e hope, by now, you've marked your calendars with the year's remaining association events.

Remember, it's never too early to book your club for an event next year. Feel free to contact the appropriate committee chairmen. For professional events, contact either of our Tournament Committee co-chairs: Blake Halderman at 914-946-1074 or Ken Benoit at 914-241-0700. Our Social & Welfare Committee co-chairs are Tom Leahy (914-941-8281) and Bob Nielsen (914-234-3779). Both are available to discuss any upcoming social events.

### Family Picnic

*Thursday, August 16*  
Bedford Village Memorial Park  
Bedford, NY

Starting at 3:30 p.m., there will be fun and games for the whole family. Be sure to bring your mitts for a serious game of softball! Watch for a mailing or call Social & Welfare Committee co-chair Bob Nielsen at 914-234-3779 for further information.

### Met Championship and Met Area Team Championship Qualifier

*Tuesday, September 11*  
Colonial Springs Golf Club  
Farmingdale, NY  
Host: Mark Chant

### Superintendent/Green Chairman Tournament

*Tuesday, October 9*  
Tuxedo Club, Tuxedo Park, NY  
Host: Tim Garceau

### Annual Assistants Championship

*Thursday, October 11*  
Dellwood Country Club, New City, NY  
Assistant Hosts: Brian Chapin, Jake Parchen, Hunter Horton

### Met Area Championship

*Monday, October 22*  
Bethpage State Park, Black Course  
Farmingdale, NY  
Host: Craig Currier

### Annual Meeting

*Monday, November 12*  
Mosholu Golf Course, Bronx, NY  
Host: Erik Feldman

### MetGCSA Christmas Party

*Saturday, December 15*  
The Stanwich Club, Greenwich, CT  
Host: Scott Niven, CGCS

### Educational Events

### University of Rhode Island 76th Annual Turfgrass Field Day

*Wednesday, August 22*  
C.R. Skogley Turfgrass Research Facility  
Kingston, RI

Registration for field day activities runs from 7:30 to 9 a.m. Turf plot tours run from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. And exhibitor booths are open from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

For further information, call 401-874-2791 or visit [www.uriturf.org](http://www.uriturf.org).

### Empire State Green Industry Show

(Formerly the NYSTA Turf and Grounds Exposition)

*Tuesday-Thursday, November 13-15*  
Rochester Riverside Convention Center,  
Rochester, NY

For further information, contact NYSTA at 800-873-8873, or visit their website at [nysta@nysta.org](http://nysta@nysta.org).

### 4th Annual GCSANJ Crystal Conference

*Tuesday-Thursday, November 13-15*  
Crystal Springs Resort, Vernon, NJ

For further information, contact Paul Dotti at 201-803-2466 or [edgepaul@hotmail.com](mailto:edgepaul@hotmail.com). You can also watch the website as the date draws closer: <http://www.GCSANJ.org>.

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