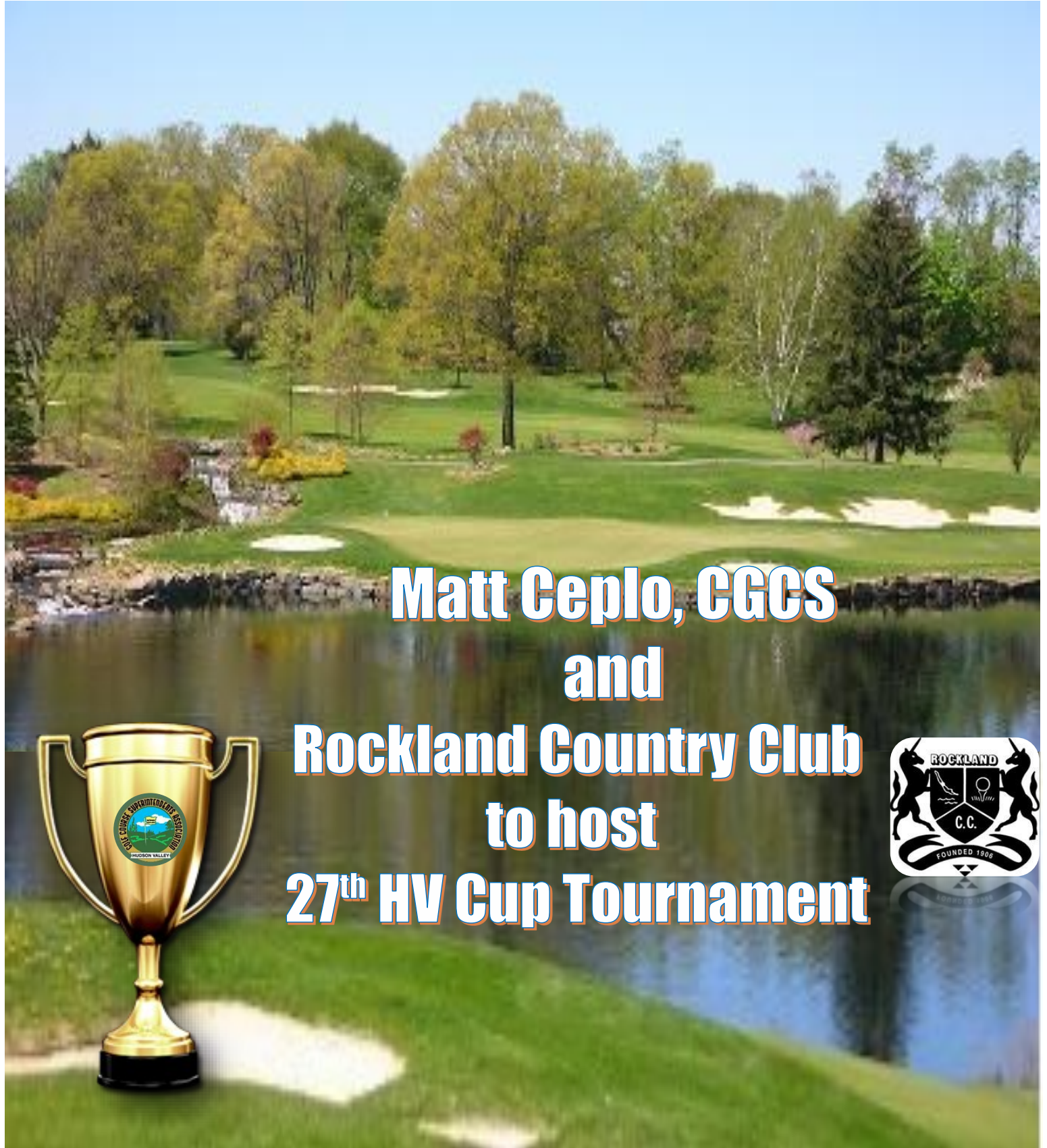


FOREGROUND

VOL. 55 NO. 3 Published by Hudson Valley Golf Course Superintendents Association July, 2018



**Matt Ceplo, CGCS
and
Rockland Country Club
to host
27th HV Cup Tournament**



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Association Motto

To promote interest and good will in the Association, encourage good relations between members and the clubs they represent.... And to keep up with the current developments in turf and related work.....

Bill Smart



Rockland Country Club

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President's Message



We are half way through July. How is everyone surviving the dog days of summer? This extreme weather is taking a toll on the turfgrass & also the humans. Hang in there! Another couple of months and then we can relax.

Our last meeting at Woodstock Golf Club had a great turnout and perfect weather. I've got to say, I really enjoy our joint meetings with the NE guys and look forward to many more. The golf course was in tip-top shape thanks to our host George Wade and his staff. Of course, this day could not have happened without the support of our sponsors.

Rounds 4 Research: With the help of Mike Weber and his committee this year, the HVGCSA raised a whopping \$1946. It shows how a little extra effort can benefit the association. Thank you to the clubs that donated rounds:

- Brae Burn Country Club
- Leewood Golf Club
- Links at Union Vale
- McCann Memorial Golf Course
- Millbrook Golf & Tennis
- Spook Rock Golf Course
- Wallkill Golf Club.

Our next meeting "**The HV Cup**" hosted by Matt Ceplo, CGCS at Rockland Country Club is on July 23rd. Join us for our premiere event of the season!

Don't forget, the deadline for submitting a Scholarship Application is July 20th.

Grover

Save the Dates!

August Meeting/NYSTA Challenge

The Links at Union Vale
Monday, August 20, 2018

September Meeting

Lazy Swan Golf Club
Sept - TBD

October Meeting

Beekman Golf Course
Wednesday, October 10, 2018



Woodstock Golf Club—May Meeting

HVGCSA Mission Statement:

The Hudson Valley Golf Course Superintendents Association exists to inform, educate and serve members within the Hudson Valley and surrounding areas.



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Hudson Valley News of Interest:

By: Kevin Collins

Match.com has filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in New York Federal Court. In their petition, the dating website noted that since Glen Dube and yours truly no longer accessed the site, revenues have declined significantly to the point that their cash flow has dried up. Company spokesperson Sheila Longshank explained, "Since the ratio of women to men on our dating site is 75-1, losing both Mr. Dube and Mr. Collins as Match.com regulars was too much to handle. Mr. Dube alone would date 60-70 women a month and Collins was no slouch either, although he never posted Dube-like numbers. Not having Dube and Collins around anymore limited choice for our lady clients and they didn't renew their memberships." Glen remarked, "I may be back on Match.com one day. I told Match executives that it was definitely my pleasure to be part of Match."

Guy Gurney is back!! He is in charge at Kutchers CC in Sullivan County and is resurrecting the golf course as we speak. The only problem is labor. Guy needs a crew of about 20 and he's only been able to average about 2-3 crew members a day even though he's been offering good money to work there. "Nobody seems to want to work" Guy reports, "We even said they could drink and smoke weed on the job and I still couldn't get or keep anyone." The projected opening of the golf course has been pushed back from this July to April of 2021.



Rumor has it that Cal Fowx, Stu Sharples, and Dan Madar might show up to this year's Hudson Valley Cup at Rockland CC. Now that's crazy exciting!! It's eerily reminiscent of the championship game in Slap Shot between the Charlestown Chiefs and the Syracuse Bulldogs when Ogie Ogilthorpe, Clarence "Screaming Buffalo" Swampston, and Andre "Poodle" Lussier came out of retirement to play.

A Rockland Country Club member found a homeless encampment in a native area looking for an errant tee shot.....oops. Sorry Matt. I forgot about the T.R.O.

HVGCSA President Grover Lee Alexander has officially disbanded the HVGCSA Board and does not plan on holding any meetings in the next 2 years.

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MATT CEPLO & ROCKLAND COUNTRY CLUB TO HOST THE HUDSON VALLEY CUP



On Monday July 23rd Matt Ceplo and Rockland CC will host the 27th Annual Hudson Valley Cup Tournament. It is the HVGCSA's premiere fundraising event for scholarships and turfgrass research. The tournament was the brainchild of long time and recently retired HVGCSA member Dan Madar and it's still going strong. For those of you that haven't had the pleasure of playing Rockland CC, you're going to love it. The layout features lots of elevation changes and, believe you me, you may not find a flat lie on the entire course. Rockland is a challenging layout, even for a scramble.

All About Matt Ceplo

Matt was literally born into the golf industry. Matt's parents owned and operated a public golf course, Afton Golf Club, in the town of Afton NY, near Binghamton. "I am blessed to have great parents," says Matt, "My father basically took care of the course and my mom ran the inside operation. With the help of seven siblings, we had the whole thing covered."

After receiving his Associates Degree in Horticulture from SUNY Delhi in 1979, Matt went to work at Kutchers CC for John "The Rizz" Rizza. Matt stayed with John for two years learning his craft. Then it was on to Ridgewood CC working as an assistant for industry

icon Ed Walsh. In the spring of 1988, Matt was hired as the superintendent at Westchester Hills Golf Course in White Plains, NY. In 1995, after an 8-year stint, Matt moved on to Rockland CC, where he's been superintendent for the last 23 years.

It's been 23 years of projects and master plans. Most recently a new irrigation system and cart paths were installed. The next project on the drawing board should begin in the spring of 2019. Plans include a new short game area and enlarging the tee area on the driving range.

Matt has always been a leader and fierce advocate for environmental stewardship in the industry and has been duly recognized for his efforts. At Rockland, Matt established 20 acres of "native plant area" which in turn has reduced pesticide and water use on the course. Matt also installed Bluebird boxes. The members are all on board and proud of the distinction that Matt has brought to the club.

Matt has won many awards for his contributions and also has given so much back to the industry. In no particular order, here is a little of Matt's resume:

2016 MetGCSA Sherwood A. Moore Award.

2007-2008 MetGCSA President (Matt served on the Met board for over 20 years)

2014-2015 Tri-State Turf Research Foundation President.

2012 Arthur P Weber MGA Environmental Leader In Golf Award (For Rockland CC)

2013 GCSAA President's Award For Environmental Stewardship.

2001 Audubon Certified Cooperative Sanctuary Designation (For Rockland CC)

"The entire staff and the

Continued...page 9



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MATT CEPLO & ROCKLAND CC....CONT'D

members at Rockland CC are amazing", Matt comments, "It gets better every year and it's been great working with everyone."

The Course

Rockland CC was incorporated in 1906. Architect Henry Stark designed a 9-hole course which was ready to play the next year. In 1930, Robert White was brought in to design an entirely new 18-hole layout which opened for play in 1930. White's design had the 8th and 9th holes located on the east side of Route 9W which made it a little dangerous for the members, having to cross a busy highway, so in 1963 the club decided to abandon those holes and brought in Alfred Tull to design two new holes on the west side of the highway. Robert Trent Jones redesigned the course in 1965. John Harvey was brought in in the late 1990's to update the traditional layout which included a complete bunker renovation. The course plays 6,703 yards from the back tees and is a par 71. The elevation changes on the course make some holes play much longer than the yardage.

Matt looks forward to a big turnout on July 23rd. As always, the course will be in great condition.

Hope to see you there! Kevin Collins



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**Thank You
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Host: Matt Ceplo, CGCS

Location: 380 Route 9W, Sparkill, NY

11:00 AM Registration (Coffee & Bagels)
Locker Rooms Available / Range Facilities Open

12:00 PM Golf: Shotgun Start
Format: Scramble 4-Man Team
Dress Code: Golf Attire

****Handicaps required at signup**

Lunch: Served at the Halfway House - BBQ

5:00 PM Cocktail 2-Hour (Beer & Wine)
Dinner Reception & Awards

Fee: \$190 - Early Registration
\$210 - After **Deadline July 18, 2018**
\$70 - Dinner Only

Last Meeting Recap...Woodstock Golf Club

by: Bill Luthin



Last Meeting was held at the Woodstock Golf Club in beautiful downtown Woodstock, NY. Our hosts for the day were Superintendent George Wade and his staff. They had the place in stellar condition for all 37 players from the Hudson Valley and the NEGCSA. Even the McNamara brothers came down from the other side of the mountain for this one! Well, there was plenty of beer supplied for all, compliments of George Wade & Bernie Jorgensen. Golf format was a 2-person team best ball event.

Golf Awards:

1st Low Gross: Chad Murphy and Noah Prosser, Northeast Guys

1st Place Low Net: Ben Babbage, Storm King GC and Terre Co. Jeff Sutphen

2nd Place Low Net: John McCarty and Dan Wait from Underhill GC, more Northeast Guys

Closest to the Pin: Ben Babbage, again!

Long Drive: Chad Murphy, again!

50/50 Winners: John McCarty, Underhill GC, Sean Wade, son of George Wade, and Wayne Sward, Underhill GC. It was great to see so many of our group. Kevin Doyle, GCSAA made the trip from NH and for once won nothing! Exec Sec. Susan O'Dowd had her camera (ok it was her phone) on hand and used it. Old Pal John Rizza made the scene, a long time

manager of Woodstock and long time owner of Hudson River Turf. Always a pleasure to see John...even Greg Moran was smiling!

Many thanks to the Woodstock staff including Chris in the Pro Shop and Assistant manager Brent for the great food and beer. What a great place to spend time! **Thank You Sponsors!** Many thanks to our active board members: Grover Alexander, Chris Kemble, and Dave Lippman for volunteering their time to run the day's event. Next Stop! The Hudson Valley Cup at Rockland Country Club, hosted by Superintendent Matt Ceplo.

Bill Luthin





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Dedication

By: Ben Babbage



Last week, as I was knee deep in an irrigation hole, one of our members pulled up and asked, “how are you always so dedicated” I explained, as much as you love playing golf out here, I love preparing and refining the golf course on a daily basis.

This got me thinking about how all of the superintendents and various vendors that service our industry in the Hudson Valley are extremely dedicated. How did we pick up this valuable trait? For some of us, dedication comes from having a love for the game, but for most of us, I believe, it has been deeply ingrained in us through our upbringing. It probably started by seeing our parents work hard towards their goals and then continued to grow with family, school-related projects, or being part of a team.

Think back to when you first started working on a golf course and all the various tasks that needed to be done. I remember when I first started working in the industry, I noticed how things were done before I got to work and how other tasks were done after I left. It amazed me at how many different projects needed to be completed on a daily basis. Not only are we dedicated to our various properties, the dedication most likely carries over to our families and all other aspects of our lives.

So be proud that many of the people we work for consider us to be some of the most dedicated individuals. Let's continue this focused dedication for a couple more months and finish this season out on a strong note.

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KEVIN DOYLE, GCSAA



Golf courses are often misunderstood, tagged as hazards to the environment. Much effort is put into setting the record straight. One way to differentiate higher standards is through specifically designed environmental programs. Before

GCSAA's 50 by 2020 best management practices initiative, some state and local programs were already in place. One such comprehensive program developed in conjunction with Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (DEM) is the Rhode Island Golf Course Green Certification, a collaboration with the Rhode Island Golf Course Superintendents Association (RIGCSA).

In 2010 the RIGCSA, led by then president John LeClair, CGCS, worked hard to develop the voluntary point-based program and have touted the benefits ever since. With a score of 300 points need to achieve certification, and a further 350 points required to recertify, these totals are indeed lofty goals. More than simply turf, this program looks to touch all aspects of the golf facility and you are rewarded with points for practices or changes that are positive for the environment. As always, the benefits of environmental programs come from the resulting data, and I recently learned that the data does indeed impress!

GCSAA class AFC member Pat Hogan, government relations director for the RIGCSA, updated the group at a recent chapter meeting on [RI DEM](#) data. Ann Battersby, Senior Environmental Scientist at the DEM, compiled information from seven golf courses recently recertifying through the [Golf Course Green Certification](#) program. Here are some of the highlights:

Pesticide reduction: 32 pounds
Fertilizer reduction: 98,690 pounds
Water reduction: 243.8 million gallons

Hogan's employer, Sodco, is also a noted environmental business earning Sustainable Turf Farm Certification designation. Sodco's recertification numbers are stunning as well:

Pesticide reduction: 61 gallons
Fertilizer reduction: 103,455 pounds
Water reduction: 129.2 million gallons

As of February 2018, 13 courses in Rhode Island are Golf Course Green Certified:

Whether by using your current or future BMPs, state sponsored programs (as RI has done), or utilizing lake/

river friendly opportunities, the intrinsic or perceived value of environmental programs and their recognition is real. When voluntary efforts large or small can result in differences as noted above, it continues to prove the stewardship of our industry. Kudos to the seven recertified Rhode Island Golf Course Green Certification on their accomplishments and I look forward to the data 13 courses can develop in the future! Want to learn more about the program? Check out the Rhode Island Golf Course Green Certification workbook link here:

<http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/benviron/assist/grncert/pdf/rigolcer.pdf>

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Again, if I can be of any assistance, please feel free to contact me.

Kevin Doyle, GCSAA Field Staff

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