

FOREGROUND

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Red Hook Golf Club





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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



Red Hook Golf Club

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President's Message

Spring Has Sprung!



What a difference a year makes. Here at Millbrook G &T we are "light years" ahead of last year's pace. With ALL of the greens healthier coming out of this winter, I can't tell you how big a relief

it is to see green grass in March. Our first poa seedhead suppression sprays are out, the course is for the most part all tidied up, ornamentals pruned, tree work done, a few more seasonal guys back early to get things in order, and a mowing or two in the books already. It feels great to be energized and prepared going into the busy time of the season.

I hope everyone has enjoyed the mild winter and possibly had a chance to garner some education throughout the "off season". Personally I had the benefit of attending the Southeast regional NYSTA conference, the NEGCSA symposium, Lobby Day, and the Golf Industry Show. Each brought with it valuable information I can bring back to my club to implement in a variety of ways. While in San Diego I attended the Chapter President's Breakfast and the Chapter Outreach Seminar. GCSAA is heavy into promoting our profession to the general public. If you watch the Master's this April, be sure to look out for a commercial GCSAA has formed, "Thank a Superintendent".

If you get Satellite Radio, check out XM channel 92 or Sirius channel 208 at 6 pm on Wednesday for an industry related interview as another form of outreach.

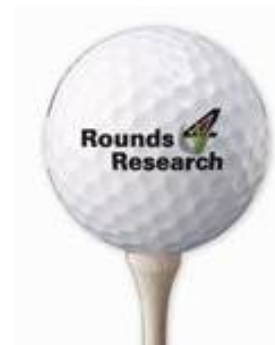
The way we do our jobs is becoming more challenging every year (even by the week) due to new legislation. There are legislative bills being drawn up on a consistent basis that would have a negative impact on what WE DO EVERY DAY! Lobby Day is a great way to take a stand but so is the Grass Roots Ambassador program the GCSAA is starting. GCSAA is asking for a volunteer from each local chapter to pair up with a local legislator to begin a "friendly" relationship. GCSAA has set up training sessions to ease the superintendent volunteer into form. Please let Chris Dyroff know if you are interested. For even more information you can discuss with Kevin Doyle, our national field representative.

I'm looking forward to seeing our neighbors from the Northeast GCSAA on April 11th up at Red Hook Golf Club in Northern Dutchess County. With that, I'd like to wish everyone a successful 2016.

Cheers,

Dan

ROUNDS 4 RESEARCH



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Red Hook Golf Club To Host HVGCSA/NEGCSA April 11th Joint Meeting

By: Kevin Collins

Legend has it that the Town of Red Hook was named by early Dutch navigators charting the Hudson River. They came upon Cruger's Island (actually a peninsula or "hoek" in Dutch) when the sumac and Virginia creeper were in full color (red of course), hence the name "Red Hook".

Prior to the area being settled, Red Hook was inhabited by the Esopus and Sepasco Indians. In the 1680s Colonel Pieter Schuyler, first mayor of Albany, acquired the land where the current Town of Red Hook is located from the local tribes. The asking price was 4 muskets, 3 bolts of colored cloth, rain proof teepee canvas, and 5 kilos of marijuana. Relations with the tribes continued to be positive until the weed ran out but that's a story for another day. By the early 1800s, the town of Red Hook was growing rapidly in population and boasted tobacco and chocolate factories, a hotel, a local newspaper, and a bank. Dairy farming and fruit growing has also played a large role in the local economy for the past 150 years.

The Red Hook Golf Club was the brainchild of local businessmen and Red Hook residents. What began as an informal meeting, led by Thomas Jennings who owned the Red Hook Hotel, culminated

in the construction of a nine hole golf course in 1930. Golf course architect Mungo Parks, a Scotsman by birth with the "old country" knowledge of golf and an insatiable thirst for good whiskey, came to Red Hook to design and build the course.

In 1996, the club was expanded to 18 holes. In addition to the nine new holes, thirteen greens were built to USGA spec while six old push up greens remained. The course plays a healthy 6539 yards from the tips. Hit the ball straight, my association brothers, or there'll be many a tree to navigate over, under, or through.

Our host superintendent, Peter Sermini, replaced long time superintendent, Craig Burkhardt, in January of 2015. In the past year Peter and his crew have added some bunkering and have cut down a few trees. Red Hook is a good test of golf and a fun course to play. The format for this year's joint HVGCSA/NEGCSA meeting is a two man scramble.

Our Host:

Peter graduated from SUNY Morrisville in 1995 with a degree in Horticulture. He took the short course in golf course management at Cornell in 1996

continued....page 8

Board of Directors Corner

Lobby Day 2016

By: Chris Strehl



The season is off to a quick start, and it's a nice change from last year's snow/ice overload. I can only hope that this year doesn't bring some of the challenges as past years did.

This is also the time of year when NYSTA holds their annual Lobby Day event. This event is a great opportunity for our industry to educate our legislators to the needs and challenges we face and how the laws that they pass or don't pass effect our industry. My initial reaction to attending this event two years ago was not positive, because I really didn't feel comfortable with public speaking. Well, I couldn't have been more wrong about the whole experience. We are the experts and have more knowledge about our industry than our legislators will ever know. Our knowledge combined with the information that NYSTA supplies makes it very easy to speak about the issues on hand.

Lobby Day starts out with breakfast and then the NYSTA organizers and lobby group go thru each item to be discussed with the Senator or Assembly member. The information that NYSTA provides is very concise and to the point, which makes it easy to talk to your representative. You are teamed up with 3-6 peers and have 15 minutes to

Speak to your representative or their staff. The meetings often take place in a very relaxed setting, sitting on couches in a lounge atmosphere. After the 5 to 6 scheduled meetings we meet back in the meeting room for a wrap up and lunch. The day couldn't be any easier. I was home by 3:00 pm and got some work done.

One of the highlights was when Dan Wilber, Chris Kemble, and myself met with our local Assembly representative, Kieran Lalor. After we discussed our issues with him he invited us into the assembly. What an experience!! He explained the resolution that was being voted on and how the process takes place, he even voted while we were standing there talking to him. It was awesome! It was really neat to see firsthand how the legislative process works.

If you've never attended one of these events, I would recommend you do. You'll never know what opportunity or person you may meet. It's definitely worth the trip.

Hope everyone has a great and prosperous season and I look forward to seeing you at Red Hook Golf Club in April.

Welcome New Members

Jim Biordi, Dogwood Knolls GC—Class A
Dave Clarke, Silo Ridge Field Club—Class C
Brian Goudey, Syngenta—Class AF
Mike DiLorenzo, Winfield Solutions—Class AF
Frank O'Dowd, Intergolf, Inc—Class AF
Steve Jordon, DryJect North East—Class AF
Jeff Smolha, Eva's Acres—Class AF

Members on the Move...

John Bresnahan, formerly a sales rep for Harrell's, is now at Bayer

Hudson Valley News of Interest:

By: Kevin Collins

One of my travelling companions (I'll give you a hint, he's tall, gangly, and knows Donald Trump) suffered another late night alcohol induced hotel bathroom mishap at this year's show. If you remember, last year he lost his balance and fell into the tub while attempting to iron some pants. This year he decided to take a late night shower before going to bed. Being a creature of habit, he likes to run the water before entering the shower to insure the water temperature is "just right". Who wouldn't? Sounds reasonable, yes? So, our buddy turned on the faucets, walked over to his bed, sat down, took off his socks and undies, and promptly passed out. Nine hours later he regained consciousness. Next morning the city, already suffering from a devastating three year drought, was forced to declare a water emergency as the water pressure in a 12 block area around the hotel was zero. And I thought all superintendents were good water managers.

Have you ever seen anyone pass out standing up?

After enjoying the Super Bowl telecast and libations at the Gaslamp Marriot's hotel bar, a bunch of us decided to have a nightcap at the Marriot's famous rooftop bar. I was hanging out, swilling my 25th Bombay Sapphire & tonic of the day, and noticed that a member of our group was unconscious but standing perfectly erect (decorum prohibits me from naming this individual but I'll give you a hint. He recently went from superintendent to the "dark side"). We tickled him to see if he was still alive. He giggled uncontrollably but would not wake up. Our friend was removed by security when he started speaking in tongues. We have pictures if anyone doubts the veracity of this story.

The Marriot rooftop bar can be a scary place. On our first night at the hotel we ran into trouble with the local "Bears". The term, "Bear", as noted in Wikipedia's slang dictionary, is a term that describes "a hairy, heavy-set (sometimes muscular) gay or bisexual man. A "Bear" typically projects an image of rugged masculinity". Well, one member of our party (I'll give you a hint, he comes from a long line of golf course industry purveyors),

through no fault of his own, turned out to be a "Bear" magnet. It was as if our young friend was slathered in honey and the "Bears" were coming out of the woodwork to get a taste. Fortunately, relying on past encounters with this type of large furry mammal, we were able to shield our friend and proceeded to clang our drink glasses together to scare the predators away. The "Bears" retreated to the darker environs of the bar. Try to remember this next time you're out hiking or enjoying a drink at Marriot's rooftop bar.

Travel tips for the next GIS. (1) If you have a tee time at a golf course, don't order egg sandwiches two minutes before your tee time. You'll miss your tee time. (2) If you leave the hotel to find a bar at 3am, make sure your cell phone is charged so you can consult "Maps" when you get lost. (3) When you do become lost, don't go into an alley to relieve yourself if your bladder is full. In a big city, people usually will be waiting for you in that alley. You may not come out. (4) Try to stay in a hotel where no one knows who you are so your reputation won't be tarnished.

We'll see you on the 11th at Red Hook!!



Red Hook Golf Club



Red Hook Golf Club

HVGCSA & NEGCSA April Meeting



**650 Route 199, Red Hook, NY 12571
(845) 758-3674**

Date: April 11, 2016
Host: Peter Sermini
Registration: 9:00 AM
Golf: 10:00 AM - Shot-Gun Start
Format: 2-Man Scramble
Lunch: Box Lunch
Social: 2:30 PM Cash Bar
Heavy Hors d'oeuvres - Awards
Fees: \$ 90.00 pp
Dress Code Proper Golf Attire

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To Register: Email Susan - sodowd@mgagolf.org or call (914) 909-4843

Payment: Please send check to **HVGCSA, 49 Knollwood Rd, Elmsford, NY 10523**
Credit card payments (call our office) or you can pay on-site with check.

Deadline: April 7, 2016

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Let's Keep the Game Fair!

By: Chris Kemble

Handicaps are an integral part of the game of golf. A handicap, based on recent scores, is an indication of a player's ability and reflects the improvement a player makes over time. Additionally, handicaps make it possible for players of different abilities to compete fairly with one another. Whether it's an organized competition or a casual outing with friends, handicaps make the game of golf fair and fun!

Important Notice:

Starting this season the HVGCSA encourages each member intending to compete for prizes and awards in our "Net" events to start establishing a USGA Handicap Index. Starting with the **September Meeting** any individuals who wish to compete for prizes and awards in our "Net" events must provide a valid USGA Handicap Index. Of course, this will not be a requirement for our proximity prizes or any other meetings that do not require a handicap. **"Everyone is welcome to play in all of our meetings regardless of whether you have obtained a handicap or not."** We are professionals in our field and this is just another way to showcase that. We look forward to seeing everyone at our events this season!

Establishing a USGA Handicap Index:

You must be a member of a golf club. The USGA® defines a golf club as an organization of at least ten individual members that operates under bylaws with committees (including a Handicap Committee) to supervise golf activities, provide peer review, and maintain the integrity of the USGA Handicap System™ (See Compliance Checklist, Section 8-2m). A golf club must be licensed by the USGA to utilize the USGA Handicap System. A club can obtain a license agreement (see Appendix F, **USGA Handicap System** manual) directly from the USGA or through its membership in an authorized golf association that is already licensed by the USGA and that has jurisdiction in the geographic area that includes the principal location of the club. For more information on finding a golf club or forming your own golf club, please go to**"Getting a USGA Handicap Index."** http://www.usga.org/playing/handicaps/getting_a_handicap/getting_a_handicap.html

continuedOnce a player joins a golf club, the player should post adjusted gross scores. When the player posts five adjusted gross scores, and a revision date passes, the club will issue the player a Handicap Index. To determine your area's revision schedule, please refer to our Authorized Golf Association Revision Schedule. http://www.usga.org/playing/handicaps/understanding_handicap/handicap_revision_schedule.html.

Red Hook Meeting cont'd....

and began his career that spring at Glens Falls CC in Saratoga County working for superintendent Chris Frielinghaus. In his five years at Glens Falls Peter worked his way up from a spray tech to the 1st assistant's position. Peter remarked, "Chris is a tremendous superintendent and a great guy. I learned a lot from him working at Glens Falls".

In 2001, Peter moved on to his first superintendent's position at Seven Oaks GC which is located at Colgate University. Peter's tenure at Seven Oaks lasted five years. During his time at Seven Oaks Peter met future Lazy Swan Architect Barry Jordan and the two became fast friends. After a two year stint at Rock Ridge CC in Connecticut, Peter took the head job at the new Lazy Swan GC in Saugerties in 2008. Alas, nothing lasts forever and Peter subsequently moved on to Red Hook. "I love the area and the members at Red Hook treat me great", Peter reports.

Peter and his wife Rebecca have three children, Owen age 8, Hazel 6, and Cora 4. Peter has two grown children from a prior marriage, sons Peter and Graham.

25 Year Member Pin

Recipients

Congratulations!

Ernie Steinhofer, CGCS, Synergy Turf

Robert N. Lippman, Westchester Turf

Thank you for all your contributions and support to the HVGCSA throughout the years.

MetGCSA's Sherwood A. Moore Award Winner

Congratulations to Matt Ceplo, CGCS, Rockland Country Club, the 17th recipient of the MetGCSA Sherwood A. Moore Award.

I was honored to be present when Matt was presented with the [Sherwood A. Moore Award](#). If anyone deserved this award it was definitely Matt. As Executive Secretary of the Tri-State, I've gotten to know Matt over the past few years during his tenure as the President of Tri-State Turf Research Foundation. This is when I grew to appreciate his passion and dedication for the golf industry, especially his work on environmental issues, and his willingness to share the knowledge he has acquired with his peers.

The golf course superintendents' profession has been well served by Matt's contributions.

- MetGCSA board for 20+ years, president 2007-2009.
- Tri-State Turf Research Foundation board, president 2014-2016.
- Presently on the board of the Audubon International as Treasurer.
- He continues as an active member of many associations, including the MetGCSA, GCSANJ, NJTS and NYSTA.

In addition to his many professional achievements, Matt is a loving family man to his wife Jasmine and 2 daughters.

By: Susan O'Dowd



Glen Dube, CGCS, MetGCSA President and HVGCSA member presented the Sherwood A. Moore Award to Matt Ceplo, CGCS at the MetGCSA Winter Seminar, January 13, 2016.

Save the Dates!

May Meeting	Hudson Hills GC	May 9, 2016
HV Cup	Hollow Brook CC	June 13, 2016
August Meeting/NYSTA	The Links at Union Vale	August 15, 2016
September Meeting	McCann Golf Course	September 19, 2016
Met Team Championship	Country Club of Scranton	September 26, 2016
October Meeting	Wiltwyck Golf Club	TBD



John O'Keefe continues board service for GCSAA

GCSAA past president enters final year on association's board of directors

Lawrence, Kan. (Feb. 16, 2016) -

John J. O'Keefe, director of golf course management at Preakness Hills Country Club in Wayne, N.J., will continue his service on the nine-member board of directors of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) in 2016 as immediate past president. He completed his term as GCSAA's 79th president on Feb. 11, 2016, at the association's annual meeting in San Diego.

A certified golf course superintendent and 36-year member of GCSAA, O'Keefe is a member and past president of the Metropolitan GCSA and the GCSA of New Jersey, and is also a member of the Hudson Valley GCSA. In addition, he is a member and past president of the Tri-State Turfgrass Research Foundation and a past member of the Metropolitan Golf Association Green Committee and the Massachusetts Turf Research Building Committee.

Born in Pittsfield, Mass., O'Keefe was raised in nearby Lenox, Mass. He received an associate's degree in turfgrass management from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst. He currently resides in Wayne, N.J., with his wife, Margaret, and their daughters, Adrienne and Maureen.



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Kevin Doyle - GCSAA



Hopefully at this time of year you recently have enjoyed some much needed time off, followed by a stretch of workload that falls well below the typical summer stress line. The nature of this profession allows us to build a seasonal quality of life that often leads to a matching im-

balance. Experienced superintendents and industry workers have developed a network of supporters and a system of routines to deal with the nature of the job. How did you accomplish those tasks? If you are like me when I was new to the industry, you worked hard for a very long time to adjust, and those closest to you, friends and family, needed to adjust with you to strike that balance. What about your new employees, who is assisting them to find a balance? What steps are being taken at your facility to help employees be as successful outside of the workplace as they are within?

There are often similar steps taken to acclimate new employees into the team at your facility. Training and encouragement bolstered by proper compensation and benefits are basic tools to get the process moving. Recognition and empowerment by you and staff can increase the likelihood of a new employee succeeding as part of a team within the workplace. What steps are taken to help with the work-life balance beyond the out-of-bounds stakes?

I continue to hear of younger, talented professionals moving out of the industry to different careers. While lack of upward job mobility may well be a reason, don't overlook the difficulty of work-life balance. Traits of the younger generations do little to mirror the needs and historical workload of our industry. How would you describe the hours you put in at the course when you began? Would all day-every day be accurate? Time and flexibility are a priority to the employees entering our industry. As much as we value our personal time and family needs, the younger generations entering the workforce most likely will have to have it. Flexibility may

well be the key to making that happen. Working sun-up to sun-down is more indicative of a superintendent's passion than a profession. Developing the golf industry as a passion may not happen in the first week, month or year. By then, the work-life balance may well be out of whack. Do you make it clear what the expectations are when they begin? Your recognition of their needs, and their understanding of your expectations should be on the table at the start. Can you be creative enough in scheduling for a promising young turf talent to thrive and attain that passion that drives us all?

Leadership and motivation are important tools of successful superintendents, and understanding generational traits of employees can assist with their use. Encouraging employees to be creative, empowering them to utilize their talents, and respecting them as people will go a long way towards their inclusion as a team member. Just knowing that what they value most could be the one thing that creates success for a new hire. While personal time might be the hardest item to provide, it may just end up being the most critical to your people.

Do you have an idea, article or photo
you would like to include?



Let us know!

Kevin Doyle, GCSAA....cont'd

Top celebrities support 2016 "Thank a golf course superintendent" campaign

Celebrities who enjoy playing golf, like Grammy award-winning entertainer Justin Timberlake and NBA Hall-of-Famer Charles Barkley, have joined the promotion to "thank a golf course superintendent." The tagline will be used in television and radio commercials, as well as 2016 print and online advertising by GCSAA. The 30-second commercials will again air on the Golf Channel beginning in April. There will even be a sweepstakes to offer golfers the opportunity to win a trip to the American Century Celebrity Golf Championship in Lake Tahoe, Nev., in July, by personally thanking a golf course superintendent. Visit the following to watch the video and listen to the radio spot:

<http://www.gcsaa.org/community/chapter-leaders/managing-your-chapter/materials-for-chapter-outreach>

GCSAA 2016 Member Engagement Opportunities

Want to volunteer at the GCSAA level? It is not too late yet! GCSAA is encouraging those interested in 2016 committee/task group service to apply. Contact Kevin Doyle to find out how.

Upcoming FREE webcasts:

Apr. 5: Think Preventative when Planning Your Fairy Ring Program

Apr. 14: ADA Practical Practices and Growing the Game

Apr. 20: Waste Risks Solutions and Opportunities - Equipment Management Series

May 10: I Wanna Be More Social

May 11: Managing Bentgrass under Summer Stress Conditions

May 26: Empowering Your Career - Equipment Management Series

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

Kevin Doyle

GCSAA Field Staff

kdoyle@gcsaa.org

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UConn Turfgrass Field Day Tuesday, July 19, 2016

at the Plant Science Research and Education Facility in Storrs, Connecticut



For more information and to register, visit

www.regonline.com/turfgrassfieldday2016

The 2016 Turfgrass Field Day at the University of Connecticut offers exciting educational opportunities for turfgrass professionals of all levels.



The date of the Field Day has been selected in order to provide the best opportunity to view the research plots when they are under the greatest summer stress. Cutting edge research in the areas of lawn care, sports and golf turf management will be presented.

Attendees will have an opportunity to discuss ongoing research and management concerns with the UConn turf team. In addition to seeing the latest



research results, turfgrass professionals have the opportunity to interact with exhibitors and discuss the latest developments and challenges in the industry.

AGENDA:

7:30	Registration opens/continental breakfast
7:30-8:45	Visit with exhibitors
8:45-9:00	Welcoming remarks
9:00-11:30	Guided tour of research plots
11:30-12:00	Visit with exhibitors
12:00- 1:00	Lunch
12:30	Ice cream social with exhibitors in vendor section
1:00-3:00	Visit with exhibitors
1:30-2:30	Afternoon Workshops (Separate registration required)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Handling and Field Application of Beneficial Nematodes• Sustainable and Pesticide-Free Turf Management• Turfgrass Disease Identification and Management Walking Tour
Pesticide and certification credits will be available	

Early registration deadline is July 1, 2016.



Turfgrass Science Program

Plant Science and Landscape Architecture

UConn Extension