

FOREGROUND

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May 2016



"Harry"

Hudson Hills Golf Course





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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



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President's Message

COMMUNITY

As superintendents we shoulder a great deal of responsibility around our respective properties. With each season comes a different set of challenges that we must overcome in order to satisfy our clientele whether they are public or private. But if you have the time to train and educate your staff, in the long run the dividends will be so worth it. This leaves more opportunity for you as the superintendent to manage the property as it should be and quite possibly volunteer some of your time to improve your community.

Here in scenic Dutchess County, in "Upstate NY", in the small town of Millbrook, community is of utmost importance. Now, not every town has that small "Cheerslike" flavor *where everyone knows your name*, and the ways to get involved are easy, but none the less, if you ask around, there are many ways to participate.

Besides work, another passion of mine is coaching younger kids. I have two children, ages eight and twelve and for the last seven years I have been a volunteer coach for football, baseball, volleyball, and basketball. Not only do I get a great sense of pride when a kid takes what we've taught him/her and applies it on the field or in real life, but it is a great way to forget about the daily challenges we face on the golf course day in and day out. I always said if I weren't on the golf course (property) everyday, I'd be in some gym teaching kids.

That's just one example of how I give back to my local community.

I'm sure there are plenty of other ways. I know guys that volunteer for school boards, volunteer as a fireman or EMT, join the local Rotary, or the Lion's Club. The community church is another way to get involved, whether you have children or not. The local SPCA, if you are a pet lover, will never turn down a helping hand. I know around here we have many blood drives. Habitat For Humanity has to be a very gratifying way to give back. The Sparrow's Nest is very popular around our area, supporting families dealing with Cancer. Meals-On-Wheels, helping those that can't cook for themselves might be up your alley.

So please, if you're not getting fulfillment out of your job and you have the time, please consider volunteering in your community. It's a win-win for everyone involved.

I'd like to thank our friends from the NEGCSA for coming down and braving a cool, breezy day with us at Red Hook on April 11th. Pete Sermini had the place in great shape for us so early in the season. I'd be remiss if I didn't mention all the hard working years that Mr. Craig Burkhardt put into Red Hook Golf Club as well.

Please join us at Hudson Hills for our first MET Team qualifier on May 9th.

Cheers, Dan

Giving Back To The Community



Hudson Hills Golf Course and Grover Alexander to Host the HVGCSA's May Meeting

by: Kevin Collins

This year's second Hudson Valley meeting will be held at Hudson Hills Golf Club on Monday, May 9th. Our host Superintendent, Grover Alexander, is excited to have the HVGCSA brotherhood play at his course and promises a fun day. The last meeting at Hudson Hills was held in May of 2012. Who could forget those great burgers with the perfect red centers and the endless supply of cold beer. And getting to hang out with Grover who is the most laid back person you'll ever meet in this industry. Priceless! Let's see if we can get 60 attendees. That's the target. Don't let me down or you may end up in the Hudson Valley News of Interest. I'm not kidding!

The Golf Course

Hudson Hills is the flagship course of the Westchester County Parks Commission. It opened for play in 2004. Billy Casper Golf was brought in to run all club operations which at the time signaled a dramatic shift in how the county managed their six courses. Casper did manage Maple Moor in White Plains and



the pro shop at Saxon Woods in Scarsdale for a few years before the county decided to take back control of those two courses. Politics! Nationally, Billy Casper Golf currently manages 140 courses and owns 12 of those courses outright.

Grover has been with Billy Casper for twelve plus years and states that, "they treat me good!" Hudson Hills averages around 34,000 rounds a year. Hudson Hills is typical of many Westchester courses. It is tree lined and tight with little room for error. Since the original layout was built additional renovations were undertaken to make the course a little less difficult. The forced carry on

the 15th hole was eliminated by converting the original hazard into a fairway. Grover also added an acre of fairway to the 7th hole. It's a win-win as these changes have helped to speed up play on the course.

You've probably read some past articles where I've teased Grover about his labor budget. I remember a time where Grover had virtually no staff to speak of. The only thing that saved him was wall to wall PGR applications. It's no wonder why Billy Casper Golf loves Grover. Low staff means low labor costs. This year Grover is doing a little better maintaining a crew. Right now he has 4 full timers, a part time mechanic, and 3 retired guys to maintain this huge property. Most Westchester superintendents have more assistants and interns than Grover has laborers.

Hudson Hills is a long difficult course with many elevation changes. It plays over 7000 yards from the tips. Good luck!!

continued....page 8



HVGCSA May Meeting/ Met Team Qualifier

Hudson Hills Golf Course

400 Croton Dam Rd, Ossining, NY

Title Sponsor



Date:	May 9, 2016
Host:	Grover Alexander
11:15	Registration
11:30	Lunch
12:30	Golf: Shot-gun Start Format: 2-Man Best Ball
5:00	Buffet Dinner & Awards
Fee:	\$90.00 Golf & Dinner \$40.00 Dinner only

Dress Code: Proper Golf Attire

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

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Hudson Valley News of Interest:

By: Kevin Collins



I recently played a round of golf at Siwanoy CC in Bronxville in the METGCSA 2-Ball Qualifier in the same foursome with Rockland CC's Matt Ceplo. Before the match Matt casually mentioned that he didn't want to see anything he said or did that day in the HV News of Interest. Well, I'll honor Matt's wishes and not talk about that particular day but there is something else that needs to be talked about. Everybody knows that Matt has been a true leader on industry environmental issues and has won many awards. Matt has instituted many changes at Rockland CC to make the course more environmentally friendly and sustainable. Sadly, recent reports coming from the club paint a dark picture that the eco-system at Rockland CC is totally out of control. In the words of one anonymous member, "Rockland CC has turned into another Jurassic Park". When asked to elaborate the member stated, "We have Bobcats dragging down deer on the fairways, bees and wasps stinging the members, Blue Birds crapping on everything, vultures always circling the course looking for their next meal, and coyotes chasing the older members. Frankly, I'm afraid to play golf without a firearm." Matt was not available for comment at press time.

Everyone who knows me knows that my political leanings could be described as left of center or even left of left which invites occasional ridicule from my peers. Before leaving the Siwanoy meeting, Hayworth CC's Tim Garceau decided to write "Trump" in big letters on the dirty back window of my Jeep. If that wasn't bad enough, I went to a local drinking establishment after the golf meeting and got beat up by a mob of left wingers who thought I

was a Trump supporter. I can't win!!

Additional legal charges are pending against HVGCSA Executive Secretary Susan O'Dowd by a District Court in Dublin, Ireland. These new charges stem from last year's investigation and conviction of Ms. O'Dowd for equipment tampering during her career as a professional Hurler for Connemara in Western Ireland. The new indictment alleges that, during her playing days, Susan ran an illegal sheep fighting and gambling operation at her farm in County Galway. Charges are expected to be filed in the next few weeks. More to come!!

See y'all on May 9th at Hudson Hills!



- *On average women say 7,000 words per day. Men manage just over 2000.*
- *Right-handed people live on average 9 years longer than left-handed people.*
- *When you get to know someone, they become more physically attractive.*
- *During WWII, because a lot of players were called to duty, the Pittsburgh Steelers and Philadelphia Eagles combined to become the Steagles.*

Red Hook Recap!

by: Bill Luthin

Our first meeting of the season was kicked off at the Red Hook Country Club, hosted by Superintendent Pete Sermini. This was our Annual Joint Meeting with our friends from the Northeast Superintendents Association.

The course was in wonderful condition, Pete and his staff had the place dialed in for our group. The cold and showery day did not stop the 35 players from having a great time competing in a 2-man scramble.



Dan Wilber with Jim Seaman, President of the NEGCSA

I was unable to play, but I made it to the meeting on time to hear the following tales: Like the famous **Seaman Bounce** - anyone can hit a ball on a green, but Jim Seaman from Shaker Ridge CC does it in style, after hitting a couple of trees just right the ball ended up on the putting surface. Also, rumor has it that the reason Ernie and Chris Strehl's golf cart broke down and had to be pushed back to the Pro Shop was due to the fact that it ran out of juice from excessive



Andy Eick, NEGCSA -Steve Whipple—Matt Topazio

wear and tear looking for all those lost balls.

Golf Awards

Closet to Pin #2- Greg Moran, Valley Green

Closest to Pin #15 Greg Moran again

Long Drive - Kevin Walker, Save-a-Tree

1st Place- Grover Alexander and Guy Gurney

2nd Place- Jim Seaman and Todd Czepiel

3rd Place- Craig Cochran and Brian Goudy

50/50 Winners -Ernie Steinhofer and Kevin (I always win something) Doyle.

Kevin donated his winnings back to the HVGCSA.

Thanks to our major sponsors for the day - Kevin Walker from Save-a-Tree and The Lippman Brothers of Westchester Turf. Thanks to all at Red Hook including Pro Doug Wiltsie, Dan Lischetti for the eats and drinks, and to Pete and his staff for hosting this event.

Next meeting is at Grover's Place- Hudson Hills.

See you there!

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Welcome New Members

Class AF

Jeff Smolha

Eva's Acres (AMVAC)

Hudson Hills May Meeting cont'd.....

Grover's World

Like many young guys (well, maybe not so young anymore) in the profession, Grover has had to pay some serious dues. His brother John,



currently the superintendent at Cranbury GC in NJ, was working as an intern for Joe Alonzi at Westchester CC 22 years ago and enticed Grover to come up from Gainesville, Fl. to work on the crew that summer. Grover was hooked and decided to attend Lake City College in Florida to get his Turfgrass degree. During the next two years he interned first for Scott Niven at

Stanwich Club followed by a second internship with Gregg Stanley at Hudson National.

Grover's first stint as an assistant was at Wykagyl with Steve Renzetti. After Steve moved on to Quaker Ridge, Grover continued on with Chip Lafferty the following year. It was during that second year at Wykagyl that Grover met his future wife Jennifer. Jennifer, who hails from Manchester England, was interning at the club. They both lived in the staff quarters above the clubhouse and had adjoining rooms and one thing led to another and, well, the rest is history.

Jennifer accompanied Grover on his next career sojourn and assistants' position at Desert Mountain in Scottsdale, AZ. While working (and sweating) for Scott Emerson at the Lyle Anderson Resort, Grover remembers, "It was way too hot out in Arizona, so I called Gregg Stanley to get back to the Northeast." After gainful employment with Gregg for a few months, Grover took an assistants' position in Atlantic City at Twisted Dunes working for Steve Lane. Hudson Hills beckoned the following year. For the first time in a long time Grover and Jennifer could afford to settle down. The happy couple purchased a house five years ago in Briarcliff, NY. On Valentine's Day in 2014, Grover and Jennifer had a son, Nathan, who is now a two year old. Jennifer is pregnant again and is due in early October. Grover remarked, "It'll be a boy because we're only having sons."

By: Kevin Collins



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HVGCSA Winter Meeting/ NYSTA Seminar



Our Winter Meeting/NYSTA Seminar at the Ramada Inn, Fishkill, January 27th was well attended.

A special thank you to our guest speaker Robert Good, Jr., from Leggette, Brashears & Graham, Inc., for taking the time for an in-depth presentation on the NYSDEC Water Withdrawal Permits, and to Beth Seme and her team from NYSTA for always doing a professional job.

upcoming events

HV Cup
Hollow Brook Country Club
June 13, 2016

August Meeting/NYSTA
The Links at Union Vale
August 15, 2016

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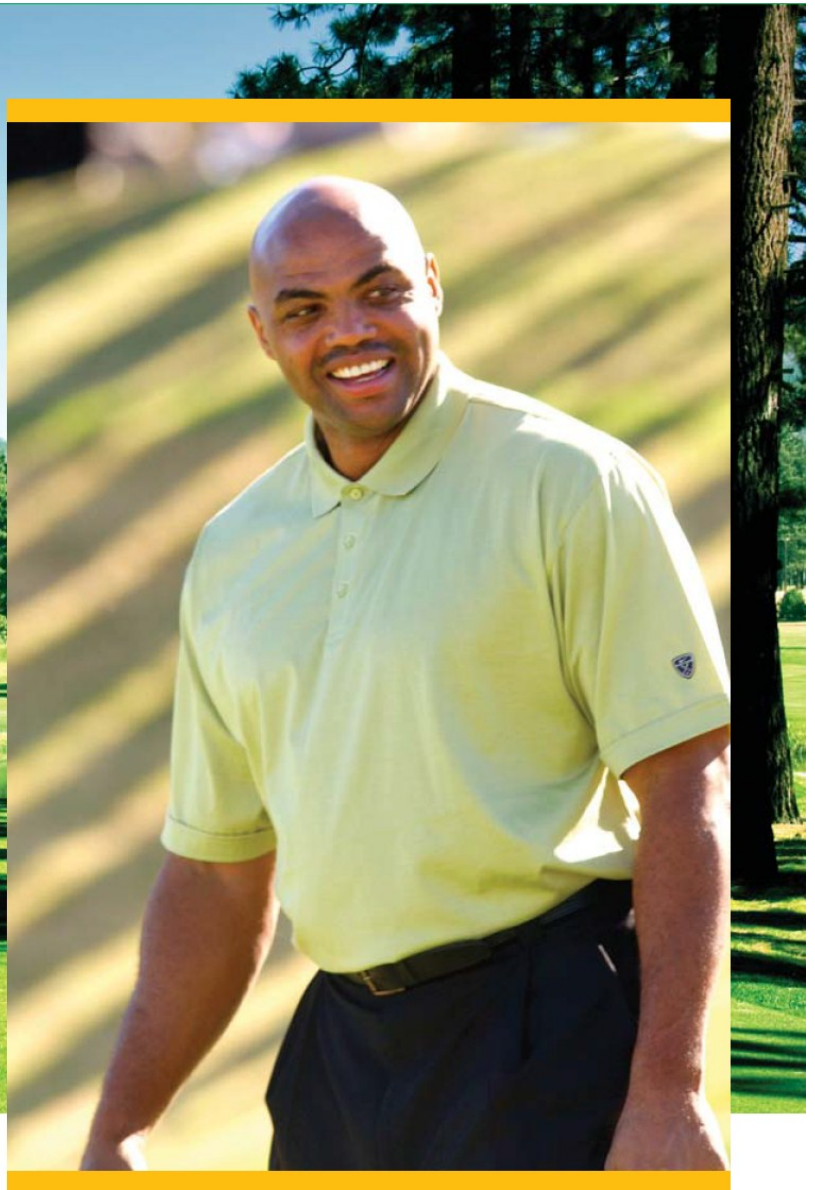
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