

FOREGROUND

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*The Links at Union Vale
Host of the NYSTA Challenge*





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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 cur-
rent developments in turf and related work.....*

Bill Smart

President's Message

Water Management



There was a time when we just threw the sprinkler heads on, just because we thought we *should* water because it was sunny or it had been three days after a rain, etc. Now, I know there are many tools out there to monitor soil moisture but we use the Field

ScoutTDR 300 Soil Moisture Meter (we are also looking into the POGO instrument as well). I can't tell you how many gallons of water the TDR has saved us.

This year thus far, I'd say there were approximately five to seven nights where I would have let the heads fly because, "*I thought we needed to water*". For our single row, nine hole golf course, with a limited supply of water mind you, that translates to around 500,000 gallons (or 75,000 gallons a night). When we get months like this past June (drought conditions), a tool like this can be a game changer. I can tell you this, our main source of water comes from a stream running through the golf course and was almost none existent as far as flow goes. Our two wells that help supplement the flow were running 24/7 and provided minimal help.

Next step was to turn on the village water supply to fill in. That could have been costly. The meter allowed us to shut down approximately 25 (out of our 140) heads to conserve water and get us by without having to pay for any.

Hand watering certain areas also lets you put water where it needs to be, as we all know. I know what some of you are saying, "we don't have the time to put toward all of this daily water management". To that I offer this advice, start cutting down mowing tees/step cut/fairways to twice a week, stop mowing/trimming those out of the way areas all together, plant less annuals out on the golf course, etc. By making any or all of the changes to your maintenance schedule, it should free up some time to better manage your water.

Part of our daily routine includes a "turf check" to find out where we are with our soil moisture levels. The day's

weather plays a large role in where our turf needs to be at a particular time to make it through the day as well. I'm not going to go into the metered numbers that make us comfortable because each site, location, soil structure, directional exposure, humidity level, evaporation rate, shade, and time of day is different from the next. As we did and continue to do, play around with moisture levels to see what your turf can handle. At Millbrook we manage a heck of a lot of Poa, so I tend to not let it stress out in mid-summer. We try to pre-condition/stress the Poa in the spring so it can withstand some of the major stressors found in the "Hot 100". The meter lets us know BEFORE the plant begins to stress so we can give it the moisture it needs without it being weakened.

Another benefit of using the TDR is I find that we also don't have to stick around later in the day to syringe as much because you can start to forecast if a certain area is going to need water or not. The initial investment of \$1,300 or so has already paid for itself. However, we are always looking for the next best affordable step to take water management to the NEXT LEVEL.

Next up on the calendar of events is the NYSTA Challenge/ Steve Smith Memorial Golf Tournament at the Links at Union Vale on Monday, August 15th. We all know Mr. Strehl will be working hard to provide us with a superior condition out there. A special thanks goes out to Kevin O'Brien and Guy Gurney for setting up the Hudson Valley Cup this past June at Hollow Brook Golf Club. Final numbers are not in yet but all proceeds from the event go to turf research, lobbying efforts, and turf scholarships. See you at the Challenge (Bring a team from your club/company)!

Cheers,

Dan



Hudson Valley News of Interest



This past Sunday's Journal News (7/31/16) published an article on pesticide usage in NYS and featured our very own Matt Ceplo and his programs at Rockland CC to reduce pesticide use. Matt described how he initially tried to get members on board with his environmentally friendly turf management plan so he set up educational displays in the clubhouse as

he wanted to teach members about protecting plants and wildlife from pesticides. Matt built aquariums and put foliage and caterpillars in them and placed them in the ladies locker room so the lady members could see the amazing metamorphosis from caterpillar to butterfly. Somehow a lone female Praying Mantis had hidden herself in the corner of one of the aquariums and in less than a day ate every caterpillar, going from aquarium to aquarium gorging herself on these innocent juicy insects. The lady members never got the chance to see this miracle of nature. The now "Giant Mantis" (over 20 lbs. by some accounts) escaped and to this day has been traversing the property eating small game and rodents.

*A temporary restraining order has been issued in Garrison Town Court forbidding Jeff Newell from going within 500 feet of any golf clubs till he learns how to play the game.

*Indictments have finally been handed down following an investigation into an illegal sheep fighting operation at Susan O'Dowd's Galway farm. Susan has been charged with six felonies; (A) conducting an illegal gambling operation involving fighting sheep, (B) taunting the sheep by putting snapping turtles in the sheep pens, (C) animal cruelty by attaching sharpened spurs to the sheep's hooves prior to the matches, (D) verbally abusing the sheep to the point of tears, (E) playing loud music in the barn at night so the sheep couldn't sleep, & (F) water boarding sheep that refused to fight. An extradition request by the Irish Government to bring Susan back to Ireland to face these charges was recently presented to the US Government. More to come.

*Our good friend, Brae Burn's Blake Halderman, was recently injured in a Yorktown Men's League softball game. With his senses dulled by the 20 Coors Lights he consumed before the game, Blake took a line drive off his shin while playing the "hot corner" for his team. Luckily the ball caromed off his shin right to the first baseman to nail the runner by a stride. Blake was credited with an assist on the play.



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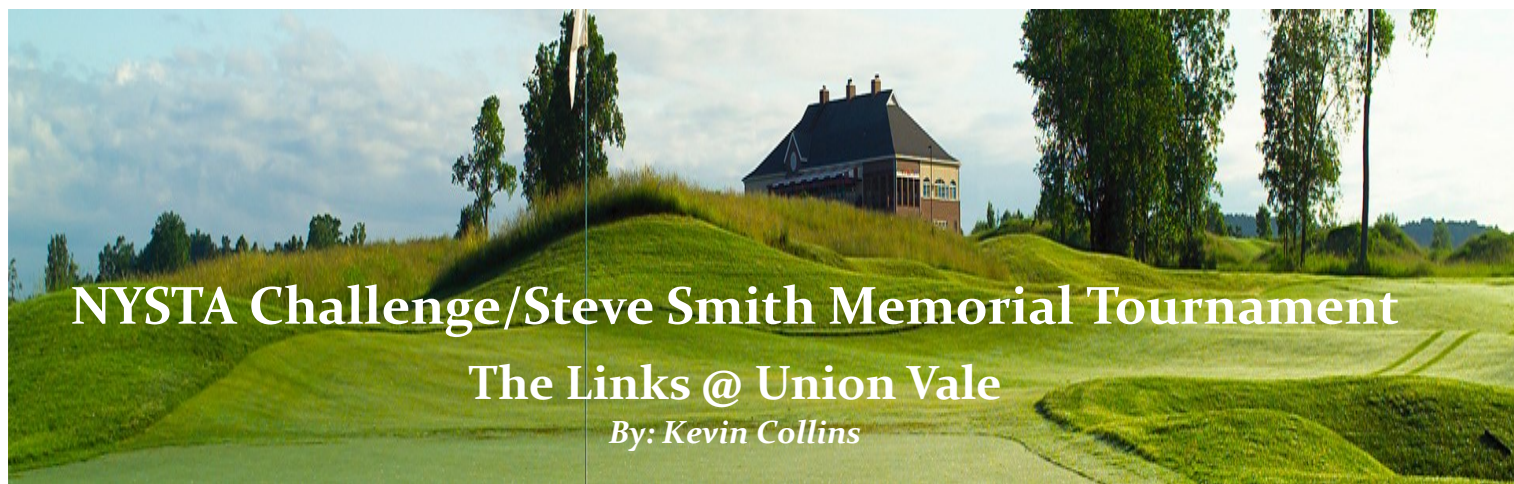
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NYSTA Challenge/Steve Smith Memorial Tournament

The Links @ Union Vale

By: Kevin Collins

For 16 years the “Sullivan County Challenge” was held every August at Grossinger CC in Liberty NY. Mike McNamara did yeoman work getting the course in pristine condition for the always well attended fundraiser. Well, nothing lasts forever, and this past winter Mike informed the NYSTA Board that he was no longer able to host the event.

NYSTA Board member Steve Whipple formed a committee and set out to find a new home for the “SCC” and, lo and behold, this year’s tournament will be held on August 15th at “The Links @ Unionvale” in LaGrangeville, NY. The NYSTA “Sullivan County Challenge” has been aptly renamed “The NYSTA Challenge/Steve Smith Memorial Golf Tournament”.

In 2015, the tournament generated \$14,525.00 in revenue to bring the total monies raised since the start of this endeavor to \$160,363.00. Sponsored by NYSTA & the HVGCSA, the proceeds of this worthwhile event help support turfgrass research and legislative endeavors in Albany. Last year’s receipts were donated to the 2015 Turfgrass Advocacy Day and to support NYAFEC (NYSTA’s Lobbyists) and the New York Farm Bureau Agricultural Alliance.

It has become more and more difficult, both locally and statewide, for our industry to get a fair shake from many of our left of center leaning legislators (I’m not being critical but that’s where the battle line has been drawn, Democrats versus Republicans) around the state due to the politics surrounding environmental issues.

NYAFEC lobbies on behalf of the turfgrass industry in both the NYS Assembly and Senate, and we have a great lobbyist in Rick Zimmerman. Some of the more recent proposed legislation is looking to restrict and in some cases ban the use of certain pesticides. Other environmental lobbies are looking to restrict water use on golf courses. Locally, counties and municipalities have enacted their own bans and

restrictions on fertilizer and pesticide use. For the last decade and more the turfgrass industry has been fighting an uphill battle protecting its rights even though the turfgrass industry in NYS is a multi-billion dollar concern. In a nutshell, that is why it is of the utmost importance to support NYSTA and this tournament to help turn the tide and regain a more equal footing with the environmental lobby in our lawmaker’s eyes.

“Turfgrass Advocacy Day”, an event held annually in Albany, enables participants to meet and speak to members of the NYS Assembly and Senate on behalf of the industry. “TAD” has always been great opportunity to impress our lawmakers with the professionalism and care for the environment exhibited by superintendents on their golf courses.

The Links @ Unionvale

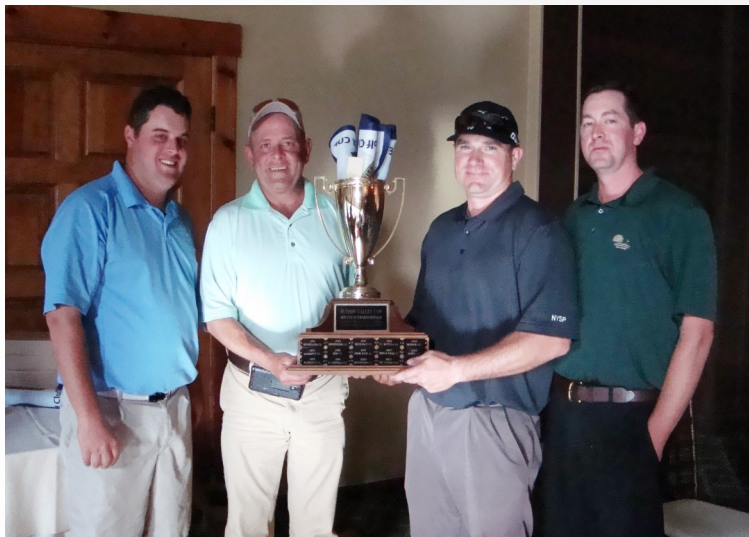
Our meeting site on the 15th was once a farm owned by the late Karl Ehmer, the “King of Quality Meats”. Famous for his breakfast sausage (they gave me gas and painful cramps) and his sparkling personality (Karl had the look of a man who was suffering from stage 4 hemorrhoids), the Unionvale property had been in the Ehmer family for decades.

With the farm being acquired by the Irish Golf Association (IGA) in the mid-nineties, this Stephen Kay “links” style design began construction in 1998 under the watchful eye of the Burton F. Clark Company. The course opened for play in June of 2000. It’s not an easy layout to score on, playing some 6,900 yards from the championship tees. One hundred and three bunkers dot the course with beautiful native areas framing the distinctive rolling fairways. There is not a lot of primary rough and the wind blows all the time. There are some very challenging holes to conquer. The 15th is a 460 yard par 4 with out-of-bounds left and #14 is a monster par 5 measuring 603 yards in length. It’s going to be a fun scramble!!

continued.....page 8

HV Cup at Hollow Brook Recap!

by: Bill Luthin



Our last meeting was our biggest association fund raiser of the season. The proceeds fund our scholarship and other turf research projects. The Hudson Valley Cup was held for the first time at the Hollow Brook Country Club, hosted by Guy Gurney.

What a GREAT day!!!

We had wonderful weather, a great turnout, and a course in excellent condition for this special event. Each year 4-man teams come to compete for the coveted cup.

Golf Awards:

- 1st Place - Team McCann, Chris Kemble, Captain
- 2nd Place - Team Hollow Brook, Guy "crash" Gurney, Captain
- 3rd Place - Team Brae Burn, Blake Halderman, Captain
- 4th Place - Team Plant Food, Dick Neufeld, Captain

Long Drive honors went to Paul Freedman, Brae Burn and Guy Gurney our host.

Closest to Pin honors went to Mike Hayes, Team Owen and Tony DeStephano, Team McCann.

Many thanks to Guy, assistant Carlos and staff for all their efforts in providing such outstanding playing conditions. Thanks to Bill and Mike and their Pro Shop staff for their assistance. Thanks to chef Greg and all the hospitality staff for the great food and service.

A special thanks to all our sponsors, especially Premier Sponsors Jacobsen/Steven Willand/Wilfred MacDonald.

Thank you to all our Hudson Valley board members, especially Kevin O'Brien and Ernie, for manning the tables and keeping things running smoothly. Thanks to Guy Gurney for his educational demonstration of what can happen when golf carts go wild.

See you at the Links August 15th.

Bill Luthin



HV Cup



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The Links at Union Vale

August Meeting

Monday, August 15, 2016



Schedule

10:30 - Registration

11:00 - Lunch

12:30 - Shotgun Start

4-Man Handicap Scramble

5:00 - 6:30 Open Bar, Buffet Dinner,
Prizes & Raffle Drawings

Tournament Fee: \$125.00 per person

Includes:

- Greens Fee • Cart Fee
- Driving Range • Lunch
- 1 1/2 hours open Bar

To register:

Call NYSTA (518) 783-1229

NYSTA Challenge....cont'd



The Links at Union Vale

Mein Host

Superintendent Chris Strehl began his career as an intern at Ridgewood CC after graduating with a four year degree in Plant Science from SUNY Cobleskill. When he finished his indoctrination at the Ed Walsh Military Academy and Charm School, Chris left for a stint at Orange County CC to work with another Walsh alumnus, Tim Garceau. When Tim moved on to the Tuxedo Club, Chris followed to serve as his first assistant. (You'll notice that most former graduates of the Walsh program have a pronounced facial tick and occasionally spit on their fingers).



In 1998 Chris was hired by the IGA to grow in the "Links". 2016 marks Chris's 18th year at the golf course. Despite the challenges of the current golf economy and a tight budget, Chris manages to keep the "Links" in great shape. Notwithstanding having a small crew to care for this huge property, Chris carries on with a fearsome determination. That's just the way Chris rolls, he keeps plugging away and moving forward. No excuses!!

The best thing that ever happened in Chris' life is his soulmate Debbie. Debbie and Chris tied the knot in 2004. Together they have built quite a life. The Strehl clan includes Jack 10, Anna 9, and Joseph 7, and of course, River, the family's rambunctious black lab.

Thank You!

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GCSAA—Kevin Doyle



The challenges during long stretches with little or no rainfall are well documented and extremely stressful. Seemingly endless days of sun seem to make every moment revolve around keeping turf strong and healthy. I have been asked by Brian, a long time GCSAA member, to write a reminder newsletter article on just such a situation, sunny days and health, but not turf related, turf manager related!

Some of you may recall an article written by Steven Best. Best, a 24-year member of GCSAA at the time of his death in October 2011 from melanoma, was honored for his story, "Surviving skin cancer," which was published in the July 2011 issue of GCM. Best was the recipient of the 2012 GCSAA Leo Feser Award, which is presented annually for the best superintendent-written story published in GCM. The story detailed Best's journey through a battle with Stage 4 melanoma and his call for increased awareness of skin cancer and ways it could be prevented among his fellow superintendents.

I immediately thought of Best's article when the topic was mentioned (linked [here](#), or simply search the GCM archive for "Surviving skin cancer"). Discussions with Brian took another very enlightening turn, as he does see a dermatologist regularly and has had some items removed over time, albeit for precautionary reasons. He told me that not only does he get checked regularly, he knows other superintendents in the area that do as well. In my 17 years on the course, I had never visited a dermatologist for a screening. Have you?

While avoiding sun exposure during the heat of the day is not going to happen in our industry, please heed the suggestions of experts at Dana-Farber:

- Avoid unprotected sun exposure and seek shade when possible.
- Wear sun protective clothing, such as a wide-brimmed hat, sunglasses, and shirts with long sleeves.
- Apply the recommended amount of broad-spectrum (blocking UVA and UVB rays) sunscreen with a SPF of 30 or above when going outside. Be sure to check expiration dates.
- Reapply sunscreen every two hours, or as needed.
- Finally, check your entire body for changes in your skin on a monthly basis.

Joke!!

Four Catholic mothers were having coffee together and discussing how wonderful their children are. The first Catholic mother tells her friends, "My son is a priest. When he walks into a room, everyone calls him Father".

The second Catholic mother chirps, "Well, my son is a Bishop. Whenever he walks into a room, people say, 'Your Grace'."

The Third Catholic mother says smugly, "Well, not to put you down, but my son is a Cardinal. Whenever he walks into a room, people say, 'Your Eminence'."

The fourth Catholic mother sips her coffee in silence. The first, three women give her a subtle "Well.....?" She replies, "My son is a handsome, 6'2", hard bodied, Chippendale stripper. Whenever he walks into a room all the women say, "Oh, my God!"

Upcoming Events

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
October 17, 2016

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GCSAA - Kevin Doyle.....cont'd

<http://blog.dana-farber.org/insight/2013/05/how-to-enjoy-summer-without-raising-your-cancer-risk/>.

Also be aware that you are not alone in this! Everyone on the staff will undergo similar sun exposure, and as your maintenance team's leader, you may need to remind them regularly as well. GCSAA has an archived webcast that may help you accomplish that goal: <http://gcsaa.tv/webinars/education/archive-files/sun.wmv>. Perhaps viewing at a staff meeting on a rainy day will help accomplish that, should we ever have one!

I hope this reminder assists to ensure you remain safe during these long hot days. Best of luck keeping both you and your turf strong and healthy this summer!

GCSAA Resources and Deadlines

Results from nutrient survey show significant reduction in use!

Thank you again to all who took the time to participate in the Environmental Profile Survey regarding Nutrient Use! The results are in and again show the tremendous environmental stewardship utilized by golf course superintendents! Information regarding the results can be found at the link [here](#).

Upcoming FREE webcasts:

[Aug. 25: Emerging Technology in Golf Course Equipment](#) - Equipment Management Series

[Aug. 30: Planning a Snow Mold Prevention Program](#)

[Sept. 28: Time Management & Goal Setting for Success Now](#) - Equipment Management Series

[Oct. 27 : Drilling Tools and Techniques](#) - Equipment Management Series

[Nov. 3: Benefits of Golf Courses: A Case Study in Auckland](#)

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

Kevin Doyle

GCSAA Field Staff

kdoyle@gcsaa.org

Follow me on Twitter @GCSAA_NE

Welcome New Member

Class AF

Daniel Shaughnessy

Winterberry Irrigation

HV Cup.....results

1A	5	9B	14A
GURNEY	MORAN	REGAN	TOPAZIO
LAZARO	LUCE	DIROMA	WERBALOWSKY
DAVIS	WALKER	GRANT	AUBE
McVEIGH	BONTEMPS	HINES	BRESSLER
1B	6	10	14B
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2	7A	11	15
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