

FOREGROUND

VOL. 56 NO. 3 Published by Hudson Valley Golf Course Superintendents Association August 2019



The Links at Union Vale
to host
August Meeting /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 current developments in turf and related work.....

Bill Smart

HVGCSA Mission Statement

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



The Links at Union Vale

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President's Message



As we approach half way through the season I hope everyone is doing great!

I would like to thank all the came out to support the Hudson Valley Cup at Haworth Country Club and to our Premier Sponsors - Grass Roots - Harrells - Metro Turf - Site One & Westchester Turf and all our Tee Sponsors. It was a great day! Thanks to Tim

Garceau and all the staff at Haworth for going all out for us. Tim, the course was in excellent shape.

Rounds 4 Research: Every year we reach out to members to encourage them to donate a round. This year we had 6 clubs that donated: I would like to thank Brae Burn CC - Leewood GC - McCann Memorial GC - Millbrook Golf & Tennis - The Links at Union Vale & The Town of Wallkill GC. The money we received will help offset our contribution to Tri State Turf Research Foundation.

Our Nine & Dine at Storm King Golf Club had a great turnout and it was a lot of fun. We awarded 2 scholarships at this event. Thanks to Ben and all the staff at Storm King for treating us to a memorable evening.

I look forward to seeing you all again at our upcoming meetings.

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Hudson Hills GC

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4. Must submit a brief essay as to how the trip to GIS will benefit you and your facility.

Due by September 30, 2019

5. Must submit a written article outlining your experience at GIS for the Foreground Newsletter.

*Winner will be chosen by the Board of Directors.

*The chosen candidate will not be eligible for another 5 years.

Package Includes:

- ◇ Full Conference Registration
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- ◇ \$200 spending allowance

August Meeting

NYSTA Challenge/Steve Smith Memorial Tournament

The Links @ Union Vale

By: Kevin Collins

This year's NYSTA Challenge/Steve Smith Memorial Tournament will be held on Monday, August 19th at the "Links @ Union Vale". Our host is the incomparable Chris Strehl. Chris has been at "The Links" since its inception.

Last year's tournament generated \$9,094.00 in revenue. That brings the total monies raised in the 19-year history of the NYSTA Challenge to \$196,225.00. Sponsored by NYSTA & the HVGCSA, the proceeds of this worthwhile event helps to support turfgrass research and legislative endeavors in Albany. Last year's receipts were donated to 2019's Turfgrass Advocacy Day, NYAFEC (NYSTA's Lobbyists), and the New York Farm Bureau Agricultural Alliance.

NYAFEC (New York Alliance For Environmental Concerns) lobbies on behalf of the turfgrass industry in both the NYS Assembly and Senate. We have a great lobbyist in Rick Zimmerman. Pretty much all of current proposed legislation is looking to restrict and, in some instances, ban the use of certain pesticides, limit water use on golf courses, and reduce the amount of nitrogen in granular fertilizer.

Locally, counties and municipalities have enacted their own bans and restrictions on fertilizer and pesticide use. It's all about politics and not a lot about science. For the past number of decades, the green industry has been fought an increasingly difficult uphill battle protecting its rights.

"Turfgrass Advocacy Day", an event held annually in Albany, enables turf professionals to meet and speak to mem-

bers 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 current political landscape in Albany has changed dramatically. The NYS Senate is now a Democratic majority. Couple that with the Democratic majority in the NYS Assembly, it isn't hard to figure out that protecting the rights of the green industry is going to be even more challenging. NYSTA needs your help by supporting this tournament and being a member of the organization. You can't sit on the sidelines any longer. NYSTA needs you now more than ever.

The Links @ Union Vale

"The Links" was once a farm owned by the late Karl Ehmer, the "King of Quality Meats". The Ehmer farm was acquired by the Irish Golf Association (IGA) in the mid-nineties and 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 one bunkers dot the course with beautiful native areas framing

Continued.....page 10





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Hudson Valley Cup...recap

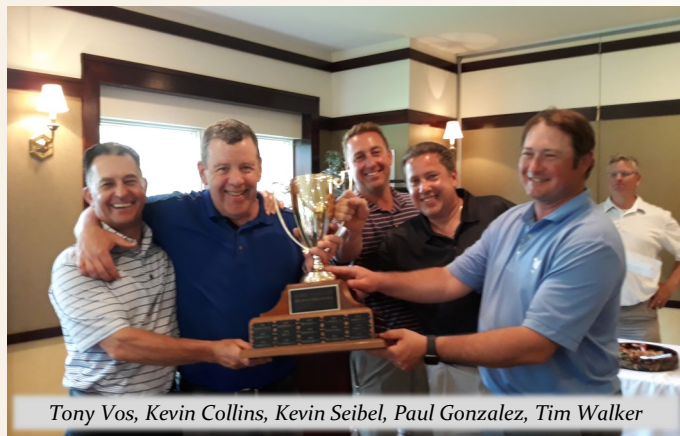
The Hudson Valley Cup was hosted by Tim Garceau at Haworth Country Club on May 20th. What a great turnout and perfect weather! We had 90+ players. It was a very eclectic group. There were superintendents from 18-hole (or more) courses, superintendents from 9-hole courses, assistant superintendents, retired superintendents, a golf course mechanic, and many vendors all together to play a great Met area club and support the many endeavors our association funds (scholarships, turf research, etc). Kudos to Tim, assistant Ian Bray, mechanic Dave Gerhard, and the crew for all their hard work in course preparation. Hard work pays off. The recent bunker renovation came out fantastic, and all that bent grass. It was nice to see some of Tim's former assistants make the scene, Rob Bressler, Matt Topazio, and Chris Strehl.

Golf Awards:

1st Place Team: Kevin Collins, Paul Gonzalez, Kevin Seibel, Tony Vos

2nd Place Team: Jim Biordi, John Gero, Bill Pray, Mike Scaperotti

3rd Place Team: Grover Alexander, Joe Rafferty, Tae Kao, Stan P.



Tony Vos, Kevin Collins, Kevin Seibel, Paul Gonzalez, Tim Walker

Closest to Pin honors went to Greg Moran and Jim Biordi. **Long Drive** honor went to Rod Stewart.

Team scores ranged from 63-75 (75 was our team including Jim Pelrine, Dan Madar and Susan O'Dowd too bad no prizes for highest score).

50/50 winners were Grover (again), Paul Gonzalez, and Dick Neufeld.

Many thanks to the General Manager, Pro shop staff, food and beverage staff and all at Haworth for their wonderful hospitality. Thanks to Susan for taking pictures and working behind the scenes. Thanks to the board members who dedicated time and energy to register and help set up for this event. It was great to see Dan Madar in attendance, The HV Cup was his brainchild many years ago and it continues to thrive!

Bill Luthin



Dan Madar, Bill Luthin, Jim Pelrine



Bill Perlee & Scott Appar



Team Brae Burn



Team Haworth



Team Noble Turf



Dan Madar, Greg Moran, Ben Babbage, Bobby Demarco

Hudson Valley Cup.....cont'd





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HVGCSA August Meeting



The Links at Union Vale

Monday, August 19, 2019

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: \$135.00 per person

Includes: Greens Fee • Cart Fee • Driving Range • Lunch
Buffet Dinner & Open Bar

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NYSTA Challenge.....continued

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 always makes a fun scramble!!

The IGA has developed a master plan for the golf course which includes some bunker removal, more mounding, tee construction, drainage, and irrigation updates to name a few. Moving forward is totally dependent on available monies but "The Links" has made it this far so I wouldn't bet against them.

Mein Host



Superintendent Chris Strehl began his career as an intern at Ridgewood CC after graduating with a bachelor's degree in Plant Science from SUNY Cobleskill. When he finished his internship at Ridgewood CC, Chris left for an assistant's gig at Orange County CC to work with another Ridgewood alumnus, Tim Garceau. When Tim moved on to the Tuxedo Club, Chris followed to serve as his first assistant.

In 1998 Chris was hired by the IGA to grow in "The Links". 2019 marks Chris's 21st 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 fearless 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 13, Anna 11, and Joseph 10, and of course, River, the family's rambunctious 9-year old black lab and 2-year old Brooke, the Beagle that never stops barking.

We look forward to seeing you on the 19th!!

Kevin Collins



Upcoming Meetings

August Meeting

NYSTA Challenge

The Links at Union Vale

August 19, 2019

September Meeting

Met Team Qualifier

Hudson Hills Golf Course

September 17, 2019

Met Team Championship

Morris County Golf Club, NJ

October 8, 2019

October Meeting

Worthington Cup Tournament

Philip Rotella Golf Course

October 17, 2019

REMINDER!

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HVGCSA. There is no fee.
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email sodowd@mgagolf.org



Nine & Dine at Storm King GC...recap

Bill Luthin was missing from the meeting, So, I will do the recap. We missed you Bill! What a great turnout we had for our Nine & Dine at Storm King Golf Club on August 1st! 42 members & guests were treated to a great evening of camaraderie and golf on a fun 9-hole course with skinny fairways lined with many trees and breathtaking views. I had the pleasure and a lot of fun playing with Chris Kemble and his lovely wife Renee. Renee was



showing off her unique golf skills and her goal is to join the LPGA as soon as she works out a few kinks in her game. Chris hit a GREAT shot on the closet-to-pin hole! Unfortunately, he was out played by the ringer with the yellow shoes from Hudson Hills. As a golfer myself that hits it pretty straight “most” of the time and I don’t usually encounter too many trees, I sure did hit more than a few that evening. When standing on some of the tee-boxes, I honestly didn’t know which direction to hit and I wasn’t drinking any alcohol. I got to say, whenever I play at any HVGCSA events, the one thing I’ve noticed is all the laughter I hear throughout the golf course...it may be because of the beer but it’s nice to hear. A special thanks to Ben and his Assistant for having the course in great condition

(especially the greens) and to Joe, Phil and all the staff that were extremely friendly & helpful. Now I know why Ben feels at home at Storm King GC.

Results:

Low Gross: Dave Lippman, Westchester Turf Supply (37)

1st Low Net: Vince Barnaba, Powelton Golf Club (34)

2nd Low Net: (Tie) Tim Walker, Leewood Golf Club (35)
Rob Capecelatro, Mansion Ridge Golf Club (35)

Closest to Pin: Gerard “Yellow Shoes” from Hudson Hills GC (6’ 7”)

We recognized our 2019 Scholarship Recipients at this meeting. In thanks to our HV Cup Platinum sponsors **Grass Roots—Harrell’s—Metro Turf Specialists—SiteOne - Westchester Turf Supply** and all our Tee Sponsors continued support we were able to award two (2) Ernest Steinhofers Scholarships. We usually do it at our August Meeting at The Links, but due to schedule conflict with one of our recipients we invited them to the Nine & Dine to present them with their awards. Congratulations to this year’s recipients **Richard Krok** (son of Rick Krok, Storr Tractor) and **Brytany Gonzalez** (daughter of Paul Gonzalez, Whippoorwill CC.)

Looking forward to seeing you all again at our upcoming meetings: August 19th at The Links - September 17th at Hudson Hills & October 17th at Philip Rotella.

Susan O’Dowd



*Low Gross Winner
Dave Lippman*



*Closest to Pin Winner
Gerard “Yellow Shoes”*



Ben and Assistant

Congratulation to our 2019 Scholarship Recipients



Richard Krok

Member: Rick Krok, Storr Tractor

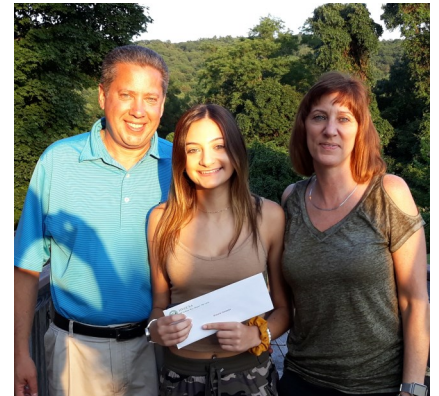
Rich, is off to Utah State University. He plans to major in Mining Engineering with a goal to become a CEO of a Mining Company. Who knows, we might see him with Tony Beets on the TV series Gold Rush.



Brytany Gonzalez

Member: Paul Gonzalez, Whippoorwill GC

Brytany, is excited to be attending Manhattan College this fall. Like most freshman she has not decided on a major yet. I'm sure whatever Brytany chooses she will be very successful.



Rounds 4 Research



Thank you to the following clubs for donating rounds!

Brae Burn Country Club - Blake Halderman

Leewood Golf Club - Tim Walker

McCann Memorial Golf Course - Chris Kemble

Millbrook Golf & Tennis Club - Dan Wilber

The Links at Union Vale - Chris Strehl

Town of Wallkill Golf Club - Richard Evans



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Hudson Valley News of Interest!

By: Kevin Collins

***I always love catching up with Chris Strehl** and talking with him about his bee colonies. "We are having a bumper crop of honey this year", Chris reports, "Three hives made it through the winter and I established five more". I didn't know this but Chris explained to me that the Queen sometimes just abandons the hive with no notice, no note on the kitchen table, no tearful goodbyes, she just leaves. And the colony sometimes just disappears. In a perfect bee world, and since Madame Queen lays all the eggs, she'll lay 8-10 eggs for the future queen before she skedaddles. Just prior to the Queen's departure the bees will swarm and party like it's 1999. It's like Mardi Gras when the Queen leaves. The female worker bees that stay with the colony feed the new queen cells (royal jelly...yum) and determine which queen egg/cell will be the next colony monarch. That queen cell gets extra royal jelly. The first queen that emerges will kill all the other queens. Palace intrigue and murder. So cool!! And the drones (male bees), what happens to them? They don't even survive the winter. The females rule in the bee universe!!

***P.J. Rotella's Chris Dyroff** came down with a case of Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever this spring. It's some serious stuff to deal with. You get it from ticks. He lost vision in one eye for a spell and suffered through a hideous rash and all the other gnarly manifestations this disease lays on you. At the height of his symptoms he looked like a zombie with bad acne. Before he was diagnosed, officials at the course thought he had leprosy and wouldn't meet or be in the same room with him. Even Chris's wife Danielle fled the house and stayed in a Holiday Inn Express for six weeks. Chris has recovered physically and is currently in counseling dealing with the debilitating and expected RMSFPTSD (Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome).

***Long time HVGCSA Superintendent Guy Gurney** pulled the trigger and has crossed over to the "dark side", selling red iron for Storr Tractor. I offer the following few tidbits of advice, having sold iron for 12 years. (1) Make sure the ball hitch on your truck matches the coupler on your trailer. Nothing worse than having your trailer pass you on the highway. (2) When demoing a chain saw, never start it up with the bar between your legs. (3) Make sure all your equipment is strapped down properly on your trailer. If something flies off and hits a car or a pedestrian, have an escape route preplanned. That's all for now.

***Don't forget to tune in to Dave Sylvester's Podcast** "Grilling & Chilling with Dave", scheduled for 7pm on Tuesday August 20th. The website is grillingwithdave.com. Dave will show you how to grill a Snapping Turtle, Thai style. Can't wait Dave!!



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Nine & Dine @ Storm King Golf Club



Nine & Dinecontinued



Left to right: Chad Mathieu, Dave Lippman
Grover Alexander, Gerard "Yellow Shoes"



High Fives !
for Closest to Pin



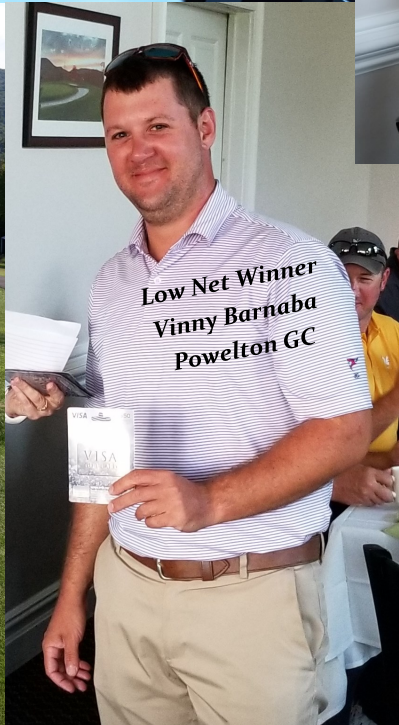
Left to right:
Evan Weymouth, Rob Capecelatro
Dick Neufeld & Brian Bontemps



2nd Low Net Winner
Tim Walker
Leewood GC



Chris & Renee Kemble



Low Net Winner
Vinny Barnaba
Powelton GC



Brytany Gonzalez receiving
a Scholarship Award



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How Do You Communicate? Kevin Doyle.....GCSAA



How do you communicate to your staff or colleagues on a day-to-day basis? My guess is that it is much different now than it was, say, ten years ago. While radios may still be a piece of the on-course puzzle, text messages might be the dominant choice. While you are off property, text messages

and email can keep you alerted of goings-on instantly. How long could you operate your facility using only electronic communications without putting your eyes on a fellow worker or even holding a brief conversation? I'm thinking it's not too long, for despite technology, face-to-face interaction is still the king of communications.

While an entire robotic staff might be in our future, we rely on our staff or colleagues to accomplish our goals. First, we need them to be there. Without eyes on that situation, the best laid plans could easily come off the rails. A sense of community or teamwork comes with the ability to interact and socialize, and this sets the foundation. This should allow the team to gain trust, and ultimately develop better working relationships. To operate well as a team, leadership must communicate the duties and expectations and reinforce the culture that has been developed. Verbally and in person should be the top choice to accomplish this goal.

Many important pieces are missing from communications without visual contact. Non-verbal cues are often cited for their importance, so I won't dwell on those. By looking at the staff post-aerification week or after member-member preparation we know the responses communicated back from tired staff will be different than a typical day.

Think about what goes into a written communication. The ability to edit the content stands out. Are the emails and text messages you receive really what the sender intended to say, or was that message tailored to illicit a favorable response? Maybe the message you received wasn't the first thing that came to mind from the sender?

Tone does not come across in writing either. If you instruct a staff member via text message to check

moisture and do another lap with a syringe hose at 4pm and get "ok" as a response, what does that mean? Is it "yes sir I'm glad to because it will help the team," or "my buddies are waiting for me to go the beach but I need this job no matter how much I hate it." Same message sent, but could easily be a big difference in tone.

Do you ever engage staff or colleagues in brainstorming sessions? Maybe engaging key staff or colleagues with a discussion on a Friday afternoon, rainy day, or in advance of upcoming event on ways to improve or adjust operations. Accomplishing such a beneficial task electronically would be a tedious mess and more likely counterproductive. Beyond the course related items, the personal side of the personnel task's superintendents perform require face to face communication and your full attention. Whether it relates to strife within your team, home life, or medical issues creating stress with your team members, avoiding misinterpretations of any kind is a must. While sometimes written documentation may be required as a policy, building trust through personal interactions is key. Communicating understanding and compassion via written word is difficult and may not convey the importance your staff member or colleague believes the situation deserves.

Instead of sending a text or email next time you need to communicate, consider using your phone as it was originally designed for, as a telephone. Maybe instead of texting a job assignment to a staff member, text them to meet you someplace convenient and communicate that next task to them in person. Your time is valuable, and those around you know it. By you taking some of that time to interact with staff and colleagues directly or face to face only communicates the importance of your message and the value you have for them. When clear, concise communications take place, it becomes easier for a team to achieve the desired goals.



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GCSAA Resources and Deadlines

Kendrick B. Melrose Family Foundation donates \$500,000 Endowment to support GCSAA's First Green

The Kendrick B. Melrose Family Foundation has donated \$500,000 to the Environmental Institute for Golf (EIFG), the philanthropic organization of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA). The endowment will support First Green, which provides hands-on STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) education at golf courses.

Edwin Budding Award

The GCSAA Edwin Budding Award is given annually to an individual in the turf equipment industry whose actions have gone above and beyond the norm to help shape the turf equipment management industry into what it is today. Edwin Budding was one of those individuals who helped define golf, not as a player, but as an engineer. He designed the first reel mower, which has shaped golf as we know it today.

Nominations

Nominations for the 2019 Edwin Budding Award will be open through Aug. 10.

Col. John Morley Distinguished Service Award

The GCSAA Col. John Morley Distinguished Service Award (DSA) is presented annually to an individual or individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of the golf course superintendent's profession. The contribution must be significant in both substance and duration, and may be, or have been, regional in nature.

Nominations

2020 DSAs are open through Aug. 20, 2019.

Upcoming Webinars

Aug. 13 @ 10 a.m.

Cultural Best Management Practices for the Golf Course

John H. Foy

Aug. 22 @ 10 a.m.

Topdressing 101: Organic Matter Management

Roch Gaussoin, Ph.D.

Sept. 18 @ 10 a.m.

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