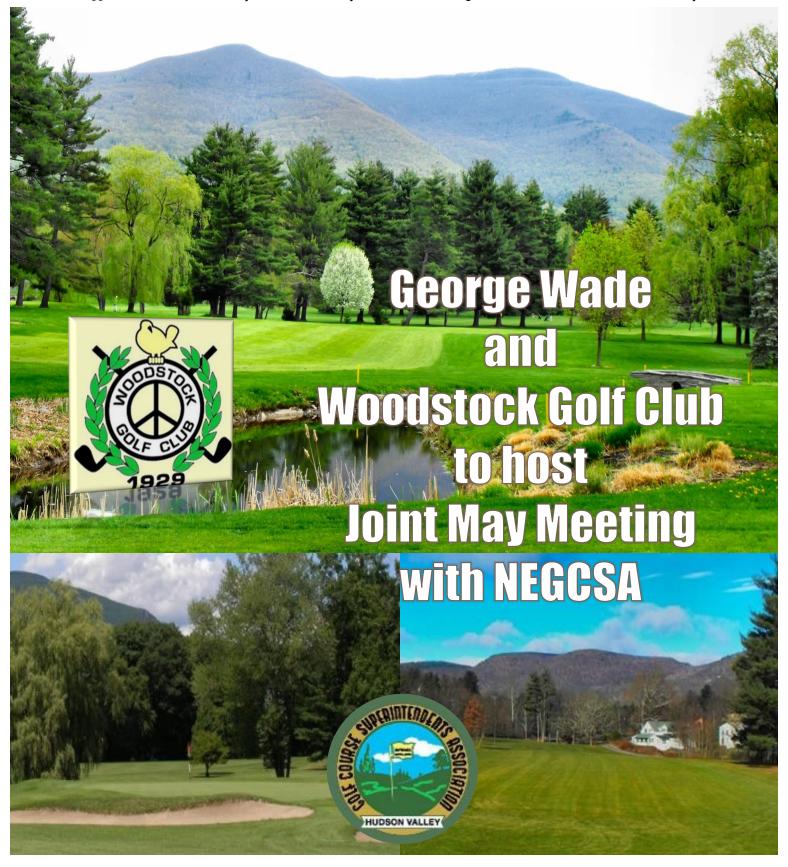
FOREGROUND

VOL. 55 NO. 2 Published by Hudson Valley Golf Course Superintendents Association

May, 2018



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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

Time really flies when you are working crazy long hours! It feels like I just wrote a Presidents letter a couple weeks ago.

Our first meeting of the season at Patriot Hills hosted by Joe Smyth was a great success. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend but I heard Joe and his crew had the course in great condition considering the wacky weather we have had.

I encourage all our members to come out and enjoy our meetings, this is a great way to connect with your fellow superintendents, assistants and affiliates. You might just have a little fun, make a new friend or learn a few things here and there.

Scholarship applications are now available...see below links. Due date is July 20th and the scholarship awards will be handed out at our August meeting held at the The Links at Union Vale on August 20th

Bill Smart Application

Ernest Steinhofer Application

I hope to see you at Woodstock Golf Club, May 14. This is a joint meeting with the Northeastern GCSA.

Grover Alexander

Save the Dates!

Winning Fields Winning Fairways Field Day

West Point Golf Course Wednesday, June 6, 2018

HV CUP

Rockland Country Club Monday, July 9, 2018

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



"THE BIG TICKET" GIS Giveaway

Criteria:

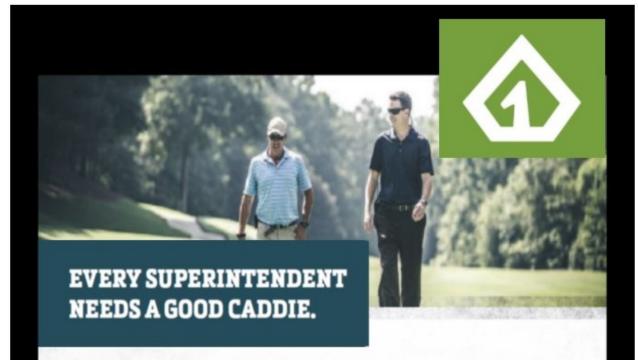
- 1. Must be active within the Association.
- Must be a Class A, B, or CGCS member of the Hudson Valley and be in good standing.
- 3. Have not attended the GIS within the past 5 years.
- Must submit a brief essay as to how the trip to GIS will benefit you and your facility.

Due by September 30, 2018

- 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
- Airfare
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Stronger Together

Hudson Valley News of Interest:

By: Kevin Collins

Tri State President Tim Garceau was detained by the police recently in San Francisco after a near riot erupted on a trolley near Market Street. A female German tourist, thinking that Tim might be a liberal (Oy Vey), showed Tim a cartoon of President Trump in a compromising sexual position. "You think that's funny Helga?", Tim angrily responded to the woman and her male companion. Tim proceeded to rip up the picture, thrash the woman and her companion, and made them both wear "Make America Great Again" hats for the remainder of the trip to Fisherman's Wharf. President Trump, after seeing a report of the incident on "Fox and Friends", called Tim and invited him and Judy to the White House for a cozy lunch with the President and Melania. The two German tourists were rounded up by ICE and deported. Tim is being considered for the "Presidential Medal of Freedom" for defending the President's honor according to White House Press Secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders.

Matt "The Big Sexy" Topazio recently decided, after a request by his children, to let his hair grow. Matt abandoned the idea after a few weeks. "My hair came in so thick that I couldn't have combed it with a York Rake", Matt remarked. The kids were obviously disappointed. Matt placated them by buying more "Chia" pets for their collection.

Congratulations to Plant Food's Dick Neufeld, who for a few fleeting moments, won the low gross at Patriot Hills at our first HVGCSA meeting with a 78. Unfortunately, the Tournament Committee, after careful debate, decided to strip Neufeld of the honor when they discovered that Dick has had practically every joint in his body replaced. "Dick had an unfair advantage over the rest of the field," Dave Lippman explained, "If he only had just one original hip, knee, elbow or wrist, we would have let him keep his gift card".

Rotella's Chris Dyroff, inspired by the current organic "Farm to Table" rage, decided to raise his own chickens. The only issue is that the local bear population also subscribes to the same philosophy. "The bears have eaten every chicken that I have tried to raise", Chris lamented, "I even shot two of them but they keep coming back." A determined Chris is still raising chickens despite the fact that not one chicken has made it to his dinner table. Total expenditures on his chicken venture have surpassed the \$3,000.00 mark. A local bear family was recently sighted along the wood line on Route 9W frolicking and coughing up chicken feathers.

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Metro Turf Specialists is teaming up with Spectrum Technologies!

Metro Turf Specialists has teamed up with Spectrum Technologies and Kathy Conard. Spectrum has several measurement tools to optimize irrigation, IPM, and cultural practices, including the popular TDR350 soil moisture meter. Kathy will be in the area soon, so be sure to keep an eye out for her!

Here is a sneak peek at a few items for this upcoming season!

2900ET Weather and Agronomic Data Station: Measure, log, map, and share critical onsite conditions that influence turf health, playability, and quality. Set customized alerts with your site-specific data to better manage microclimates, high disease and insect pressure areas.

SoilStik pH Meter: Measure pH of soil, irrigation water, AND tank mix solutions with one affordable meter. When you know you can improve tank mix stability and improve chemical and fertilizer availability and efficacy, it's a hole-in-one!

TruFirm Surface Hardness Meter: Measure surface hardness because it doesn't just impact playability but also turf health. Compacted surfaces interfere with infiltration of water, fertilizer, and chemical sprays. A great complement to the TDR soil moisture data.

SC900 Rootzone Compaction Meter: Measure rootzone compaction to monitor aerification needs and results. Now you can better balance air to water ratios and increase water and nutrient availability for a healthier growing environment!

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HVGCSA & NEGCSA

Joint Meeting @ Woodstock Golf Club



"By the time we got to Woodstock" Joni Mitchell wrote back in 1969, "We were half a million strong. And everywhere there was song and celebration. And I dreamed I saw bombers riding shotgun in the sky, turning into butterflies above our nation".

We're going back to Woodstock. And it's been almost 10 years to the day since the last Woodstock meeting. So, pack up your bong and your bandana and join the fun. The date is May 14th and we can join our good friends George Wade and John Rizza and set our souls free, maybe. And golf, of course.

Woodstock will always be etched in the history of 6o's counter culture lore as the site of the most famous rock festival ever held. It was three days of nothing but peace, love, and music (and mud, drugs, bugs, hugs, and exposed jugs). Even though Yasgur's Farm was located in Bethel, the festival will always be remembered as Woodstock.

"Woodstock is still stuck in the 6o's," John Rizza laughed, "You can still buy Bob Dylan and Janis Joplin posters in the local stores." John has managed the operations at Woodstock GC since 2005 and George Wade has been the superintendent for the last eight years.

Woodstock Country Club opened in the spring of 1929 and had big plans for an 18 hole golf course, tennis courts, and a grand clubhouse. Alas, the depression put a damper on the club's original vision and the course has remained at nine holes. The club changed its name to Woodstock Golf Club and here we are in 2018. "The course is very picturesque," John reports," You walk across Sawkill Creek, get a great view of the Catskills, I

think its Overlook Mountain. The club sits on 55 acres and will stay forever green whether it continues as a golf course or not. That's what was written into the original charter. The membership is a combination of locals and high society."

Amazingly, John has been in the business for 45 years. His first superintendent's job was at Mohonk Mountain "I started under the guidance of Alan House. Grumberg. He taught me a lot of what I needed to know to be successful," John remembered. After Mohonk, John moved on to The Concord and then Kutchers CC. For some unknown reason (I really didn't ask him) John decided to cross the River Styx and join the dark side, working for Steven Willand, Grassland Equipment, Simplot Partners, and finally E/T Equipment. The E/T thing was my fault; I asked him to come on board and then left him there all alone. I don't think John ever forgave me for that. In 2005 John decided to form his own management company, Hudson River Turf, and here we are 13 years later. "I'm very proud of the 45 years I have worked in this industry," says John looking back on his experiences, "the friendships and close relationships that I have built will always stay with me."

Superintendent George Wade reports that the course came through the winter well. "The turf looks good and we did lose some trees but we're in good shape". George, like all of us old timers, has been in the industry and the Hudson Valley for quite a spell. George was at Carvel CC for 19 years before it closed and landed in a good spot at Woodstock. "The course isn't very long (5429 yards from the blues) but it's quaint and pretty. We're private and have a consistent membership. We have made a lot of clubhouse improvements and the food is great", George states. George lives in Hyde Park with his wife Beth. They've been together for 35 years and have two children, Shawn 28 and Kayla 23.

Speaking of the food, I was informed that this year's entrée will be Baked Chicken in a marijuana and magic mushroom sauce with hashed potatoes. I can't wait!

We'll see you on the 14th.

Kevin Collins

HVGCSA & NEGCSA - May Meeting



Woodstock Golf Club

NY-212 & NY-375, Woodstock, NY 12498

Date: Monday, May 14, 2018

Host: George Wade **Registration:** 10:00 (Coffee)

Golf: 11:00 - Shotgun Start / 2-Man Best Ball

Lunch: Box Lunch at the Turn

Social: 3:30 - Buffet Dinner - Cash Bar - Awards

Fee: \$ 80.00 pp - Golf/Lunch/Dinner

\$35.00 pp - Dinner only

Dress Code Proper Golf Attire

To Register: Click HERE or email sodowd@mqaqolf.org

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS CORNER

Interesting Weather

By: Dave Lippman



Like many in the "green industry", the topic of weather often comes up in discussions with people outside our industry. Most people can assume we are busy when the weather is good. For golf course guys, it is even more self-explanatory, getting the course ready as the sun blares

and golfers lurk. But what happens when weather we hope for in March comes in February, like it did this year? And worse, weather we are fine with in January hits us mid- April!!!

Several public courses around us opened briefly in February to grab some easy revenue from diehards desperate to get the ball in the air. Many golfers thought this was a sign of an early season (me included). Let's face it, as a golfer nothing beats favorable spring weather where courses are ahead of the game and in top shape early. We have been spoiled in the last several years with "early" seasons. Not so much in 2018 so far. Storm after storm battered the area through the month of March. But still hope was there that the early season.

Then April hit, and any hope of Augusta National in the Hudson Valley was all but squashed. So far as I write this, we have seen one day above 65 and constant nighttime temperatures below 40. Constant rain has had us on edge on whether it will turn to snow or not. My straw poll reveals that we are 2-3 weeks behind "normal conditions". The sight of the 15 -day forecast lately has made "normal" seem miles away.

So was that pleasant weather in February worth it? Obviously not!! If we learned anything this season, it is that March is the make or break month for good golf in springtime. Sure we can get an "Easter Blizzard" once in a while, but constant cold and sunless days make for a slow wake up and longer timing to get consistent playing conditions.

While some spring weather years are harder to explain

to non- turf people, I hope at least that the lousy weather this year makes it "self- explanatory" for a lay person as to why conditions are a bit behind. We can only hope that the proportion of expectations will be equal to the improvement in the weather. Wouldn't that be great.

In the end I hope everyone can agree things could be worse. Reports of winter damage that has been severe in the last several years has taken a break for the most part. No one really had to start a "clock" on ice coverage of greens. Mother nature could have treated us much worse. The warm weather is on the way and we will all be "busy" before you know it.

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Last Meeting Recap...Patriot Hills

by: Bill Luthin



Our first meeting of the 2018 season was held at the Town of Stony Point Patriot Hills GC by host Superintendent Joe Smyth. What a crappy Spring! Cold rain and snow, weekly noreasters, constant course cleanups, and just when you thought you were done...spray application timing. Well, we had about 30 attend and all were amazed by the outstanding conditions Joe and staff had the place in. Topped off with a great layout and superb weather. A wonderful day was had by all! I had the pleasure of playing

with Jeff Newell (Mr. Long Drive) a man so accurate that he had the ability to hit a 3" diameter tree square in the center, Kevin Collins (Mr. Closest to the Pin) who certainly had his mojo workin', and Chris Dyroff, one of the most consistent players I know. And boy did we laugh!

Golf Awards:

1st Low Gross: Dick "Swivel Hips" Neufeld, Plant Food with a blazing 78

2nd Low Gross: Steve "I always walk the course, but not this one" Whipple, West Point GC - **81**

1st Place Net: John Allen from "Team Dogwood"

2nd Place Net: Matt "Big Sexy" Topazio from Metro Milorganite

Long Drive honors: Jeff Newell, Garrison GC **Closest to Pin**: Kevin Collins, Ocean Organics

Closest to Pin: Ryan Batz, Nutrite

Many thanks to Dave Lippman for hosting the awards portion of the day. Congrats to 50/50 winners Bill Bray, Joe "Mr. Bentgrass" Smyth, and Brian Bontemps, Noble Turf. Thanks to Pro Dave Fusco, and staff for all their assistance, and to the food and beverage staff for the great lunch and dinner.





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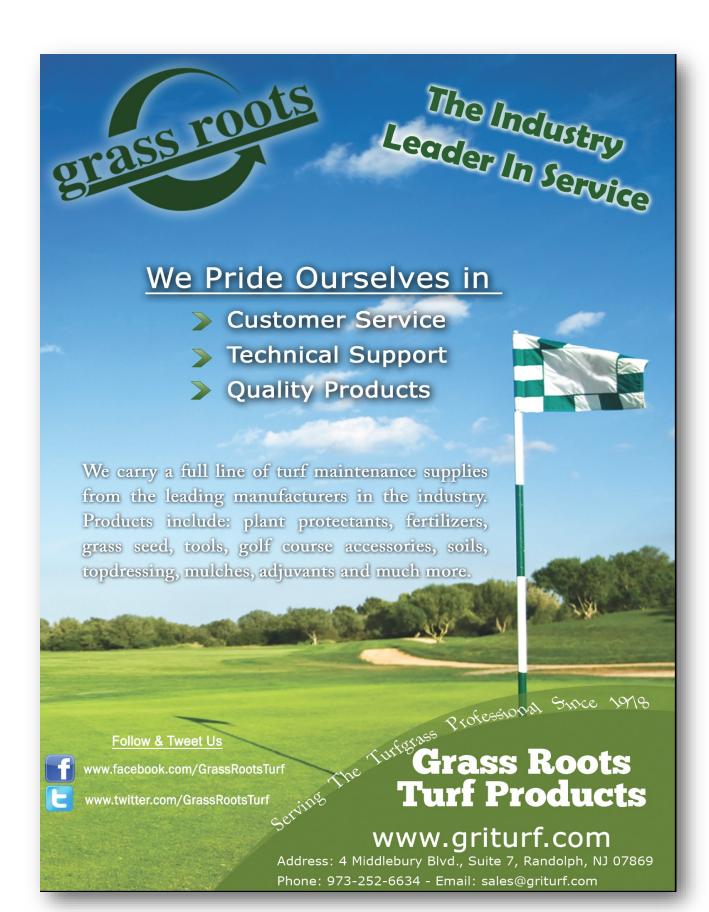
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2018 Scholarships

Ernest Steinhofer Scholarship:

Eligibility Requirements:

Parent must be a member of the HVGCSA

Student may or may not be planning to enter a field related to golf course management.

<u>Must</u> be enrolled or accepted at an accredited institution of higher learning.

Winners cannot reapply for a period of one year.

Ernest Steinhofer Application

Bill Smart Scholarship:

Eligibility Requirements:

Presently involved in the golf industry.

Must be accepted to or attending an accredited

Turfgrass Maintenance Program.

Recommended by Class A, B or Associate Member in good standing with the HVGCSA.

Bill Smart Application

Any questions contact Susan (914) 909-4843

DEADLINE: JULY 20, 2018

Member News

New Member

Class C

Robert McClay, Powelton Club

Members on the Move

Kevin Walker was at Synergy Turf now at **Nutrien AS Solutions**

Company Name Change

Seeton Turf is now Noble Turf

Other Hudson Valley Stuff.....

Jacobsen and Wilfred MacDonald have parted ways. As of February 2018, after 90 years of representation in the Hudson Valley, MTE will take over this area. Wilfred MacDonald will continue to serve our loyal customer base with all our other equipment offerings and look forward to the next 90 years of service to our friends in the Hudson Valley golf community. Please give me a shout if anyone has any questions on this transition.

The Annual McNamara Open is scheduled for Saturday, May 19, 2018. This scramble format event will take place at Tarrybrae GC – 11:00 registration. Cost for the day is \$85.00 and includes golf, cart, lunch, dinner, awards, and a lot of fun. Proceeds benefit the Sullivan County Veteran's Coalition. For info call Pat McNamara- 845-798-0642.

RIP...Dick Roberts. I am sad to report the sudden passing of our good friend Dick Roberts. Dick was a great supporter of the Golf Course Superintendents and a very good friend with now retired Super Ed Walsh. For the past 35 years he was involved with Orange County Schools as the Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds at Goshen CSD, Monroe-Woodbury CSD, and spent the last 4 years at Valley Central CSD. He focused his energy on sports fields to improve turf, maintenance and safety. His goal was to create a feeling of pride by players and spectators in their Athletic Fields. When he needed a head grounds manager with a turf background and strong staff management abilities at Monroe-Woodbury, he sought out a Golf Course Superintendent, our friend Gina Gatto. Dick was always a part of Wilfred MacDonald's Hudson Valley Cup Team (winners in 2012 and last place in 2014) win or lose, we always had a great time. We will miss you! Rest in Peace.

Get your hippie on and see you at Woodstock, Man!

Bill Luthin

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PATRIOT HILLS MEETING

