

FOREGROUND

VOL. 59 NO. 1 Published by Hudson Valley Golf Course Superintendents Association April 2022

*Wiltwyck Golf Club
to host April Meeting
w/NEGCSA
Tuesday, April 19th*



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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.



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President's Message



It looks like 2022 we will be back to normal and we have a full schedule for the season. Starting with Wiltwyck in April, Paramount for the Hudson Valley Cup, Lochmor, Dogwood Knolls for a Nine and Dine, the Links for the NYSTA Challenge, Villa Roma, and ending the season at Mahopac Golf Club.

I enjoyed seeing everyone at our Annual Meeting at Billy Joe's Ribworks. That seems to be the new unofficial official headquarters of the Hudson Valley Golf Course Superintendents Association. They had a great space for us to hold our meeting and our annual Christmas gathering back in December. It was certainly nice to see everyone in person again and most of the mandates are coming to an end. I am sure we've all had more than enough zoom meetings and virtual events to last a lifetime!

April is such a busy month for all of us, I know. Aerification, course openings, projects, and donating to Rounds 4 Research. I encourage all members to donate a foursome because the funds stay local! This is a great way to support the association, and who wouldn't want to bid on a foursome from one of our great facilities?

I want to thank all of our board members past and present. A special thank you to Chris Kemble our Past President for all he has done and sacrificed for us. These guys work so hard for your association to make the events enjoyable and smooth. As I write this letter, I'm sitting at LaGuardia airport heading to the GCSAA headquarters for a Chapter Symposium. I don't know what it will entail, but I am excited and nervous as this is my first airplane trip since literally the days leading up to the COVID shut down in March 2020. I also want to thank my fiancée Patty for putting up with me and the fact I am heading to Kansas and leaving her with our 2 week old daughter Reagan. Thank you Patty! You are a saint and without you I would be in serious trouble!

I hope to see everyone at our events this season. I also wish everyone a great season with a full staff. I know staffing is difficult as ever this year (I just hired all new assistants and luckily I have a full crew as of today).

All the best,
Tim

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Wiltwyck Golf Club to host HVGCSA/NEGCSA April Meeting By: Kevin Collins

On Tuesday, April 19th, Wiltwyck Golf Club and Superintendent Jason Nalepa will host a joint meeting of the HVGCSA and the NEGCSA. It is the first golf meeting of the year and we are looking forward to a huge turnout. It will also be a great opportunity to support Wiltwyck. The club's comeback is truly a testament to the resiliency of the members who purchased the property and just refused to let it fail.

The Town

Wiltwyck's home town, Kingston, has a long and storied history. Originally, the town was named Esopus after a local Indian tribe. It was one of the original Dutch settlements in New Netherland, the others being Beverwyck and Manhattan Island. In 1777, Kingston became the first capital of New York State. During the Revolutionary War, the city was torched by British troops moving up the Hudson River from New York City. Kingston was home to a major granary that supplied grain to the colonies. The British burned the entire city to the ground along with large stores of wheat. For the life of me, I can't figure out how one would burn wheat but, obviously, the British were good at it. During the 1800's Kingston was a hub for the production of bluestone and cement, having both cement deposits and the native river sand used in the production of bluestone. Other industries prevalent at that time were ice harvesting from the Hudson and numerous brick making factories. Alas, none of those industries survived to the present day. But, thankfully, there are still a lot of great watering holes down on the banks of Rondout Creek.

The Course

In 1933, a local group of working men culminated two years of discussion by forming a golf club. They named it "Wiltwyck," Dutch for "wild refuge," the name given to the area by Dutch Governor Peter Stuyvesant nearly 300 years earlier.

The new club purchased an estate on the western outskirts of Kingston. Construction of a nine-hole course began in late 1933 and the course opened for play in 1934. In the early 1950's, the NYS Thruway was routed through the heart of the course so the move was made to a 140-acre farm half a mile south from the original site. Robert Trent Jones Sr. was hired to build an 18-hole championship course which was ready to play in 1956.

Wiltwyck is a parkland course complete with numerous severe elevation changes and water in play on four holes. The greens are small and well bunkered. Like all RTJ's courses, Wiltwyck has great bones. It plays 6850 yards from the championship tees.

Continued...page 15

BOARD OF DIRECTORS CORNER



So....here we go again! Another season starting up and by the time you read this article some courses will be open for play, some may have aerified greens and some may have even hosted an outing already. Whatever the situation, I hope you all have survived the winter and were able to recharge the human battery. I know I definitely did not get a chance to do that. My course was open until after the New Year and we will already be opened by the time you read this article.

On another matter we will all be dealing with is the hiring of employees. It's always a fun time getting to know new employees and teaching them how to mow grass and at the same time teaching them the golf course. A tip I've used that helps tremendously is giving them a course layout to carry with them for the first few weeks. I also try to hire people that play golf. It helps that they have some knowledge of the game & course, and hopefully will take pride in maintaining it. Especially, since they get golfing privileges with the job.

Final note, we have some really great locations this season to have our monthly meetings. The first meeting is a joint meeting with the Northeast gents. Paramount is hosting the HV Cup and June will be at Lochmor and a qualifier round for the MET Team Championship. Nine and Dine will be at Dogwood and our September meeting will be at the Villa Roma. I think this is the first time the Villa is hosting an event. If you have never played it, I highly recommend making the trip. It will also be a qualifier round for MET Team, so double your pleasure. We will finish off the season in October at Mahopac Golf Club.

I hope you all come out and support the association this season and be a part of our meetings. A huge part of our industry surviving is networking with our fellow superintendents and sales associates. Attending the meetings gives us that opportunity, and a day away from the course or the open roads can give you a much needed rest. Fingers crossed for a great and prosperous season.

Good luck to you all and see you on the greens.

Jay Werbalowsky, GCS
Wallkill Golf Club

BIG TICKET GIVEAWAY...TRIP TO GIS

Criteria:

1. Must be active within the Association.
2. 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.
4. Must submit a brief essay as to how the trip to GIS will benefit you and your facility.

Due September 30, 2022

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
- ◇ Airfare
- ◇ 4 Nights Hotel
- ◇ 2 Educational Seminars (1 full day + 1 half day or the equivalent expense)
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Big Ticket Giveaway

My Trip to the GIS

By: Brian O'Malley



My trip to the 2022 GCSAA Conference was a great experience and it really did exceed all my expectations. I would like to start off by thanking the Board of Directors and the Hudson Valley Golf Course Superintendent Association for giving me this opportunity. My last trip to the GIS was as a Turf student at Colorado State when they took a few teams to compete in the Turf Bowl. Since then a lot has changed professionally and personally for me. This experience 17 years later was undoubtedly different.



On this trip I wanted to share my experience with my family. So, the best way to do that was to bring them along. My wife, Marybeth, and my two sons Declan and Logan which are 5 and 2, enjoyed it

as much as I did.

With the 2021 Conference being 100% virtual and the 2022 Conference being across the country in California it was hard to predict how it would turn out. We kicked off the week at the Syngenta opening ceremony on the USS Midway Museum and I learned a little history about the USS Midway. It was the longest-serving aircraft carrier in the 20th century and named after the Battle of Midway of June 1942. The Midway was built in only 17 months, but missed World War II by one week

when commissioned on September 10, 1945. The opening ceremony ended with paratroopers landing on the top deck to kick off the conference. For me it was great to see friends and colleagues in person that I haven't seen in almost a decade and my sons got to play on the helicopters.

Then it was on to education. My goal was to take classes that were unique to the conference. The first seminar I attended was a interactive seminar with other superintendents and assistants, led by Phil Helmn, "How to Build a Sustainable Culture that Benefits Everyone". Topics of discussion were on how to improve your work environment. Several of the exercises and brainstorming activities can be applied to any department of the golf operation which is valuable when bringing ideas back to River Vale Country Club.

The second seminar I attended was the update on GCSAA CGCS program. The GCSAA has worked very hard to improve the evaluation process for the designation of CGCS. The new evaluation process has seen a substantially higher rate of applicants proving the new program is more superintendent friendly. If any of you in the area started the old program and found the portfolio and self-assessment took too much of your time, then I would strongly encourage you to look at the new program requirements. With more of empha-

HVGCSA April Meeting w/NEGCSA



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Wiltwyck Golf Club

404 Steward Ln, Kingston, NY

Tuesday, April 19, 2022

Host: Jason Nalepa, GCS

10:00 Registration (coffee)

11:00 Golf: Shotgun
****Handicaps required when registering****

Lunch: On the Turn

4:30 **Reception:** Dinner & Prizes

Fee: \$105 - Lunch, Golf, Dinner/1hr Open bar
 \$ 50 - Dinner/Open Bar

Dress Code: Proper Golf Attire

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Hudson Valley News of Interest!

By: Kevin Collins

So much has happened since the last issue so here we go.....



*Storm King superintendent Ben Babbage was informed by the management that he had to reduce his labor force by one (the current crew is only Ben and his assistant). He was also told that they expect Ben to hand mow the new greens every day. The greens average 44,000 square feet. They also informed Ben that they want

all the tees, fairways, and rough to be seeded no later than April 15th. They also told Ben they want to be open for play in June. Ben's reaction.....



*Congratulations to HVGCSA President Tim Walker and his partner Patty Thornton on the birth of their baby girl Reagan. She's such a cutie!



*Congratulations to new Southern Dutchess superintendent Jeff Newell. The days of lounging around on his inflatable pontoon boat smoking ganga and drinking a case of Coors Light every day are over.



*Patriot Hills superintendent Evan Weymouth, his beautiful bride (the former Sally Difresco), and his bulldog Brady tied the knot at Sleepy Hollow Country Club in November. The wedding almost didn't happen as Sally wasn't too keen on Evan's insistence that Brady be on the wedding certificate and part of the actual ceremony. She eventually gave in. The ceremony itself was beautiful especially when, after their vows, Evan and Sally said "I do" and Brady said "Erf".



*Shortly before Jeff took the job at Southern Dutchess, in an effort to cut down on his expenses, he petitioned the NYS Agricultural Bureau for a farm exemption raising Llamas on his Orange County property. His petition was rejected after an inspector showed up and informed Jeff that in order to receive the exemption, the Llama's had to have a pulse.

My Trip to the GIS...cont'd

sis on tasks that will benefit both career and personal growth the new program is worth some attention. This program is a goal of mine to achieve over the next few years. This seminar also opened my eyes to the learning opportunities and recent updates on the GCSAA website. It's probably one of the few benefits of having to go virtual over the last 2 years is the fact that the online continuing education has really been upgraded and is easy to use.

The conference also provided a much needed recharge that will be valuable moving into the 2022 season. It was nice to have this opportunity to meet up with former classmates from Colorado State and other turf professionals that I have become friends with over the years from across the country. The management of River Vale Country also was supportive of my experience and will be helping me attend the 2023 conference in Orlando.

Overall, my trip to the GCSAA conference was educational and I look forward to next year's conference in Orlando.

Cheers to a great 2022 Season!

Brian O'Malley
River Vale Country Club



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Cody Bojo
Villa Roma Resort

Class AF

Andy Bulizak
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Hosting a Field Trip with First Green

Everyone had a different path leading them into this industry. Some entered by accident, and some went in with eyes wide open. Hosting a field trip to your golf course could be an innovative way to introduce a youngster (and teachers, chaperones) into our impressive turf industry. Well, GCSAA made it even easier to pave the way by creating a program called “First Green”.

First Green provides all of the plans and information on how to set up and get your first field trip off the ground. There are many different tasks we do on a daily basis that school kids are learning presently in their classrooms, except we get to do it on a golf course. Just think, how cool would it have been to see and touch some of the things we now take for granted back in middle school. I was a late bloomer into the turf field but made it nonetheless. If I had only been introduced to this path a little earlier, it might have saved me some much-needed cash from the first college go-around. Let me also mention that this is a good way to introduce potential employees to the property as well. We all know how tough the job market is currently.

The possibilities of what to talk about on the field trip and how to convey that information are endless. Some topics might include:

Soils: Differences, Uses

Equipment: Greens (reel) mower, Rough (rotary) mower, Aerator, Roller

Tools: Moisture meters, Stimpmeter, hand lens', microscopes

Calculations: Surface area, volume, rates

Environmental Protection: Water quality, water conservation, beekeeping, wildlife management

In any case, if you'd like to participate in a field trip (fingers crossed, we intend to host one this year), or host one yourself, please contact me or Kevin Doyle and we will steer you on the right track. With the many negative perceptions regarding golf courses, let us open our doors and show folks what we are all about.....It's a Win, Win, Win.

Dan Wilber

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Wiltwyck April Meeting w/NEGCSA...cont'd

Our Host

Our host, Jason Nalepa, was born and raised in Kingston. In 2000, Jason began working on the maintenance crew at Wiltwyck for Paul Pritchard. In the fall of 2001, with Paul's urging, Jason signed up for the turf program at SUNY Delhi. "I attended Delhi from 2001-2004", and I commuted from Kingston which was an hour and twenty minutes each way", Jason laughed, "that enabled me to keep working part time at the course." In 2004, Jason received his associates degree.



In 2004, Jason began working full time at the course and soon moved into the role of 2nd assistant. In 2016 with the club struggling financially, Paul was let go and Jason was asked to move into the role of superintendent, which he refused. The club miraculously stayed open and, in 2017, Ben Babbage was hired as superintendent. Jason stayed on as Ben's 1st assistant.

At the end of 2017, Wiltwyck, in receivership with a local bank, decided to close its doors. Ben moved on and Jason was left to ponder his future. Miraculously, WGC Holdings, a buying group which included 12 Wiltwyck members, stepped in and bought the property from the bank.

"Six managing members from WGC Holdings make all the decisions at the course," Jason reported, "all of the department heads report directly to the managing members. We meet face-to-face once a month. WGC has invested a lot of money into the property. There were clubhouse improvements. The banquet area was completely gutted and renovated. A new swimming pool was built. We have a new pump house, new tennis courts, new irrigation controls systems, and some new equipment."

Architect Brian Silva has been retained to develop a master plan for the golf course. "When Brian first walked the course, he said he wouldn't take the job unless extensive tree removal was a priority. This winter, mother nature took care of about ½ of the job," Jason laughed, "We had a major ice storm on February 4th. The inch of ice mangled over 200 trees. They were beyond saving. We had a crew of 15 here for almost a month removing the trees and currently have a crew of three grinding all the stumps. The membership will love it. It really opened up the course."

So, there you have it. We look forward to seeing you on 4/19.

Kevin Collins



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2022 HVGCSA Board of Directors

Left to Right: Ben Babbage, Kevin Collins, Jay Werbalowsky, Vince Barnaba, Evan Weymouth, Chris Kemble, Tim Walker, Matt Kerens & Reese Wasson

HVGCSA 2022 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

April 19th - Wiltwyck GC w/NEGCSA

May 9th - HV Cup, Paramount Country Club

June 13th - Lochmor Golf Course (Met Team Qualifier)

July 22nd - Nine & Dine, Dogwood Knolls Golf Course

August 15th - Links @ Union Vale w/NYSTA

September 23rd - Villa Roma (Met Team Qualifier)

October 3rd - Mahopac Golf Club (Met Team Qualifier)

November 19th - Tailgate Party at West Point w/MetGCSA

December TBD - Year End Social Event @ Billy Joe's Ribworks

Kevin Doyle, GCSAA Northeast Representative

We often talk about the networking and camaraderie this industry exemplifies. Sharing knowledge among ourselves is standard practice. Mother Nature dished out anxiety to most, while some came through in good to great shape, others did not. Superintendents through a swath of central New York, the Capitol District of Albany, Western Massachusetts down through Connecticut, areas of New York and northern New Jersey are dealing with damage of various proportion. On Friday April 1st, Springfield Country Club (MA) superintendent Jedd Newsome put together a roundtable meeting, as he did in 2015, inviting area superintendents with Dr. Michelle DaCosta of UMass and John Daniels regional USGA agronomist to add their input. Club officials were asked to attend and meeting content was geared towards all attendees.

DaCosta gave a summary of the winter weather including the warm December, very cold January, followed by the roller coaster February. Data sensors being utilized by ongoing research showed January soil temp (at a half inch depth) less than twenty degrees, followed by a February that included three or four events where soil temperatures reached 40-60 degrees!

DaCosta noted these swings in temperature are more in line with March, not February. Huge moisture releases were measured by the sensors in February, even under ice, creating potential for injury to poa which de-hardens easily with temperature and easily absorbs moisture.



Sensors under ice showed less fluctuation in temperature and much less moisture release, yet the drop in oxygen levels were severe. Noting how carbon dioxide levels have yet to be addressed, DaCosta engaged Mohawk GC superintendent Andy Eick regarding his green tied to this data. Eick explained to the attendees that the green under ice turned out to be the best green on the property to date.



Daniels discussed results of his many site visits from New York to Massachusetts, and many in-between. The importance of sunshine in fall turf health headed into winter and spring recovery was highlighted. Daniels stressed the importance of photos in documenting these difficult growing conditions.

Use of permeable and impermeable covers was discussed. Daniels addressed the benefits of each in preventing damage, issues that can occur, and use of covers to aide in recovery. Newsome highlighted his use of covers on his historically difficult greens and the success this effort has made.

Newsome wrapped up the day by noting during his 13-year tenure at Springfield CC, he's endured six years of significant winterkill issues. He extended his thanks to the club for their patience and understanding during recovery. He stressed the need to stay off the greens until they recover while admitting the pressure on municipal and public facilities might make that impossible. Newsome's mantra for keeping the stress off the greens, by June first the golfers will all have forgotten what happened.

Newsome thanked the club for allowing him to host, the Tom Irwin Company for providing lunch, and all who attended. There were great questions with fantastic information provided by speakers and attendees alike. Knowing you are not alone doesn't ease any of the pain and anxiety the situation places on superintendents, it does alert others of the circle of peers with whom you can look to for assistance and support. A rising tide raises all ships, let the healing process begin.

Visit @JeddNewsome on twitter for a YouTube link to watch the event.



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GCSAA's Golf Course Environmental Profile

Why fill out the GCEP Phase III Nutrient and Pest Management survey? We need current data to support the BMPs used to advocate for the profession & golf industry and to measure change/trend analysis for the future. Members receive .5 service points: https://ngf.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9m16Z4NQevXqOIS?src=O3

GCSAA LEGACY AWARD Scholarships

Applicants must be enrolled full time at an accredited institution of higher learning, or for high school seniors, they must have been accepted at such an institution for the next academic year.

In addition, award winners are ineligible to apply the year following their award, but can reapply after a one-year hiatus.

Students must complete the application form and supply the following:

- Transcripts from all high schools and colleges attended.
 - Original essay.
 - Graduating high school seniors must attach a collegiate letter of acceptance.
- The annual deadline is April 15.

To apply: [Scholarships | GCSAA](#)

Upcoming FREE webcasts:

[A Brief History of Nitrogen Fertilizer and Its Use](#)

Beth Guertal, Ph.D.

April 14 @ 10 a.m.

[Understanding and Managing Pythium Root Diseases in Turfgrass presented by FMC](#)

Lee Butler and Jim Kerns, Ph.D.

April 28 @ noon

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

Kevin Doyle GCSAA Field Staff

kdoyle@gcsaa.org

2022 Scholarships Applications

Ernest Steinhof 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.

Must be enrolled or accepted at an accredited institution of higher learning.

Winners cannot reapply for a period of one year.

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.

DEADLINE: JULY 1, 2022

Click [HERE](#) for applications
or go to our website
HVGCSA.org (member's page)

Any questions contact Susan
(914) 909-4843
sodowd@mgagolf.org