

FOREGROUND

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Bedford Golf & Tennis Club

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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



I hope everyone is off to a good start for the 2024 golf season. Between finishing up winter projects, aeration, and daily maintenance, the season is now in full swing. Hopefully everyone is able to hit the ground running after a stop and go start to the spring.

It was great to see everyone that came out to Beekman Golf Course for our April Nine and Dine.

Thank you to Steve Spontak for hosting a great day of golf. Additionally, I think I can speak for everyone that the BBQ dinner was fantastic. I have no doubt that all in attendance were able to eat their fill.

Our next meeting is the Hudson Valley Cup being held at Bedford Golf and Tennis Club hosted by Bob Nielsen on May 8th. I hope to see everyone out there as it's sure to be a great day on an excellent golf course. The Hudson Valley Cup is our premier event of the season and helps to fund the scholarships our association awards to family members and turfgrass students. For anyone planning on applying for a scholarship please fill out the application soon.

Thank you to all the board members for their time and effort in putting together this year's slate of meeting sites and coordinating all the logistics. If anyone is interested in volunteering their golf course for a future meeting please feel free to reach out to a board member or myself. I wish everyone a successful start to another season.

Reese Wasson

BIG TICKET GIVEAWAY....TRIP TO GIS 2025

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 by September 30, 2024](#)
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:

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Bedford Golf & Tennis Club to Host the HV Cup Fundraiser

By: Kevin Collins

It's that time of year again! The HVGCSA's premier fundraising event will be held on Wednesday, May 8th at the historic Bedford Golf & Tennis Club in Bedford Village, NY. The Hudson Valley Cup is celebrating its 33rd year as a charity tournament to raise money for scholarships and turfgrass research. This tournament was the brainchild of long time HVGCSA member Dan Madar and it's still going strong. Our host, Bob Nielson, is looking forward to hosting this event and a big turnout. For those of you that haven't had the pleasure of playing Bedford G&T, you are going to fall in love with this old-school golf destination.

The Club

The long and storied history of Bedford Golf & Tennis Club began an astounding 134 years ago in 1890 when a group of young male tennis enthusiasts decided to form a club. The Bedford Lawn Tennis Club opened in June of 1891. The club offered three grass tennis courts, croquet grounds, and a clubhouse. A nine-hole golf course was designed and built by the members and opened in 1896. Things didn't change quickly at the Bedford Golf & Tennis Club and it wasn't until 1926 that the club decided to acquire more land to build a proper golf course. Famed Architect Devereux Emmet was hired and expanded the course to 18 holes. He kept five holes from the original design and built 13 new holes. The course remained un-

changed until 1998 when the club hired Architect Ken Dye to tweak the course. Holes 13 & 14 were lengthened by 100 and 80 yards respectively and all the bunkers and greens surrounds were redone. The course plays 6750 yards from the tips and is characterized by the many abrupt elevation changes. Bob describes the course as, "a great member's golf course. The elevation changes make for a fun course to play. You do have to shoot well to score though". Unlike many other golf and country clubs in Westchester County, Bedford Golf & Tennis, from its inception, has remained to this day a family sports club, and nothing more.

Even though there have been no major changes to the golf course since 1998, the club has retained the services of Architect John Harvey who is developing a master plan for the golf course moving forward. Not that there hasn't been major work being done at the club. In August of 2023 the club completed the construction of a new clubhouse. "The old clubhouse was around 60 years old and just wasn't adequate for the needs of the membership," Bob said, "so the intent with building a new facility was to cater to our membership, not to host more weddings and events. We needed a larger and more modern kitchen and the

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Hudson Valley Cup



Bedford Golf & Tennis Club

535 Cantitoe Street, Bedford, NY

Wednesday, May 8, 2024

Host: Bob Nielsen, CGCS



10:30 AM Registration & Lunch

12:00 PM Golf: Shotgun 4-Person Best Ball

4:30 PM Open Bar, Buffet Dinner & Awards

Fee: \$230 per person (Golf, Lunch, Dinner & Open Bar)

\$60pp (Dinner & Open Bar)

Dress Code: Proper Golf Attire

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GCSAA ROUNDS 4 RESEARCH UPDATE

By Kevin Doyle, Northeast Field Staff



Well, the 2024 Rounds 4 Research auction is in the books. You will hear some data soon showing the fantastic strides made nationwide this year over last. That holds true for the HVGCSA too!

Many of you made donations this year, and for this, every member should be thankful. Thanks to your donors efforts, and the generosity of your clubs, the HVGCSA will get their best return possibly ever!

This program generates dollars from the golfers who benefit the most from your efforts.

Of the many regional associations who also take part, the ability to benefit the membership with the proceeds is far reaching. Using those dollars for scholarships, education events, turf research, sending a representative to National Golf Day, and more. While I'm unsure where the HVGCSA proceeds will go, the benefit to each of you will be real, and again....courtesy of golfers!

Some data for the courses in New York:

- 57 rounds donated (12 more than 2023)
- 743 total bids made (255 more bids than 2023)
- \$17,720 final gross bids (@\$4,800 more than 2023)
- 12 New York clubs final bid was over noted value

Again, thank you to those who donated in 2024. If you weren't one of those, please consider donating in 2025. The HVGCSA board continues to work hard building value for each of you. Having more golfer dollars put to work for you can only increase the benefits received as a HVGCSA member!



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Hudson Valley News of Interest!

By: Kevin Collins



For Sale: 2009 Ford 4x4 HD Truck **Miles:** 647,930 **Rust:** Yes
Where: Everywhere **Cab Type:** Two Generous Front Seats, You Can Fit a Small Irish Child in the Back **Tires:** Original **Spare Tire:** No **Tire Jack:** No **Windshield Wipers:** One **Where:** Front Passenger-Side **Side-View Mirrors:** One-On Driver's Side **Condition:** Cracked **Gas/Diesel:** Gas **Fuel Ratings:** 6 MPG City/ 5MPG HWY

Price: \$9,500.00 or Best Offer.

Contact: Guy Gurney (914) 867-5309



Rotella Super Chris Dyroff loves the chicken coop on his property. He used to have chickens but now he has a tenant. His best friend Jeff Newell has lived there since he sold his RV. Chris leaves him breakfast every morning...beer and cracked corn. Sometimes, as a change of pace, Chris will leave Jeff some dried crickets and trail mix.



A lot of family drama is going on in Matt "The Big Sexy" Topazio's life. After his twin sister Pinky was remanded to Danbury Correctional for a stretch, Matt's youngest sister Precious showed up at his door. Precious is going through some tough times. She lost her job as a stewardess for Spirit Airlines, her husband left her, and her double-wide trailer was hijacked by some Irish Travelers. Matt welcomed Precious with open arms, being the generous brother that he is. Matt is hoping he can get Precious a job at Metro as a receptionist.



Powelton Club Super Mike Aube's fascination with goats continues. He's up to three. He's lost a few to the local coyote population. Sometimes the crew forgets to put the goats back in the barn when they finish work. The cute little white goat in the picture, Sammy, was a coyote victim. Mike likes his goats to get plenty of fresh air so he chains them to the trees around the shop with plenty of food and water available. The crew forgot to put Sammy back in the barn a few weeks ago. All that was left of Sammy was the chain. RIP Sammy.



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LAST MEETING RECAP...BEEKMAN GOLF COURSE

What a great start to the meeting season at Beekman. The weather was exceptional for an early spring afternoon. Many thanks to Steve and his staff for having the course in great shape with some sneaky fast green speeds. The Highland-Nine was a fun test of golf with spectacular views of the Hudson Valley. Especially, from the 5th hole.

The format was a 2-Man Shamble which was well received by all. Although, myself and partner Jeff Newell were far from the top of the leaderboard...a win did occur as Jeff successfully completed the round without striking a house, car, or patron.

The winners of the day:

Closest to the Pin: Greg Moran, Valley Green - 3'10"

Longest Drive: Shawn Westridge, Inness

Team Shamble Winners

1st place: The Links of Unionvale Guys

2nd place: Mike Weber/Reese Wasson *Match of cards

50/50 Winners

Grover Alexander & Jeff Newell

(Another big win for Jeff and first 50/50 win in 23 years as a member of the association.)

Many thanks again to Steve for hosting and the clubhouse staff for a bounty of beverages along with a great barbecue spread following the round.

Hope to see everyone on May 8th at Bedford Country Club for the Cup.

Cheers,
Matt



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APRIL MEETING AT BEEKMAN GOLF COURSE



Bedford Golf & Tennis to Host HV Cup...cont'd

square footage of the clubhouse increased from 9000 to 16,000 square feet. We also built two employee housing units at the same time.”

All About Bob

“I hadn’t any intention of getting into golf”, Bob remembered, “I was enrolled at Pace University and had every intention of getting into business”. That all changed when Bob started working “on the crew” at Bedford Golf and Tennis in 1982. The superintendent at the time, Terry Boels, who hailed from County Sligo in Ireland, had a thick brogue and although Bob understood him, Terry’s relationship with club members could have been described as “two peoples separated by a common language.”



Bob became the assistant in 1988 and that year completed the UMASS winter program to further his golf education. In 1991, Bob took over as superintendent. During Bob’s tenure, the course underwent the aforementioned Ken Dye renovation which transformed and brought out the beauty of the original Devereux Emmet design and in many people’s eyes, enhanced it. “It’s a pretty neat golf course”, Bob proudly states, “We’re not going to host any major golf tournaments but it’s a solid layout that’s fair and fun to play. You won’t lose a lot of golf balls.

2024 marks Bob’s 42nd year at the club and his 33rd as superintendent.

Bob has always been one to give back to the industry. Bob was a board member for the MetGCSA for over a decade and served as its President in 2011-2012. Currently Bob is serving as Vice President for NYSTA and as President of the NY Golf Course Foundation which was born out of the establishment of BMP’s and sustainability for the golf course industry, a project spearheaded by Bob, Blake Halderman, Ken Benoit, Frank Rossi and Cornell University. Bob was recognized by the GCSAA a few years back as the recipient of the “Excellence in Government Relations” Award. Bob is also hard at work creating a new association, a golf alliance which will involve superintendents, golf pro’s, GM’s, and golf course owners all geared towards speaking with one voice when dealing with Governor, Assembly, and State Senate in Albany.

Family

As Bob remembers it, “I met my wife Carolyn 21 years ago. I was out with my friend Haik (Bobby’s sometimes partner in crime and the former head chef at Bedford Golf & Tennis) at a bar. He went over to Carolyn and her friends and asked them to sit with us”. The rest is history.

“Carolyn is originally from South Salem and had moved down south. She was

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Bedford Golf & Tennis to Host HV Cup...cont'd

a teacher and director of a pre-school in Clarksdale, MS and was also involved with Habitat for Humanity. She had returned to the area to get her Master's Degree and that's when I met her. She never went back to Mississippi. Carolyn is one of a kind, she always has a smile on her face and it takes quite a bit to get her down". Out of their union, two sons John-19 and Sam-16 were born. "They're great kids, happy from the minute they wake up till they go to bed, and they're both doing great". Carolyn has a bit of the artist in her, being the director of the Pied Piper Arts Theatre in Carmel, NY which is a theatre company that caters to special needs children and regularly produces both dramas and musicals.

The Nielson house is a great place to hang out and Bob and Carolyn's hospitality is second to none. Unofficially it's known as the "Black Hole", kind of like a wine & spirit vortex that will swallow you up if you're not careful. I could tell you about many of the unforgettable experiences I've had there if I could only remember them.

Last but not least, Bob's oldest boys, Bobby-44 and Matt-40 are a tremendous source of pride for Bob. Bobby, a Notre Dame graduate, is Director of Food Services for the local school district in Bishop, CA. Matt is a senior project manager for Cushman-Wakefield in NYC.

Kevin Collins

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Leewood Golf Club, Tim Walker, CGCS

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McCann Memorial Golf Course, Chris Kemble

Millbrook Golf & Tennis, Dan Wilber

2024

Meeting Schedule

May 8th

HV Cup

Bedford Golf & Tennis

July 15th

Winding Hills Golf Club

August TBD

NYSTA Challenge

September 16th

Worthington Cup
Centennial Golf Club

Oct - TBD

Warwick Valley CC



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BOARD OF DIRECTORS CORNER

Scholarships Applications

DEADLINE: JULY 1, 2024

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.

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

Winners cannot reapply for a period of one year.

Bill Smart Scholarship:

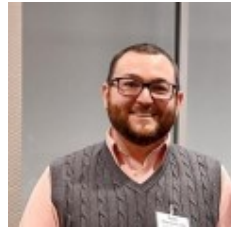
Eligibility Requirements:

Presently involved in the golf industry.

Must be accepted to or attending an accredited
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in good standing with the HVGCSA.

Click [HERE](#) for applications
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HVGCSA.org (member's page)

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As the 2024 golf season has gotten underway, I think we are all looking for a balance of the last 2 golf seasons. The extreme opposites of the drought year in 2022 and one of the wettest years on record in 2023 will surely not be missed.

It seems we have turned the corner in the past couple weeks with weekly heavy rains subsiding. If the early turn-out of rounds played so far this season is any indicator, it looks like it will be another busy season of courses filled with golfers. Tough on maintenance, however, is essential for our industry to thrive.

Looking to the future, here in New York State there will be a concerted effort to align all New York State GCSAA chapter associations, along with Professional Golf associations and Club Managers association. The need for the golf industry in New York to work together and create an Environmental and Economic Impact Study has never been greater. The New York Golf Foundation will be representing our chapter associations in this endeavor.

This project will benefit our industry on multiple levels such as a lobbying tool, promoting awareness of environmental practices, and showcasing what the golf industry provides economically for our state.

For reference, I encourage everyone to check out the Colorado Golf Coalition's Environmental and Economic Impact Study on their website.

<https://www.coloradogolfimpact.org/>

Evan Weymouth

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