

# FOREGROUND

VOL. 55 NO. 4 Published by Hudson Valley Golf Course Superintendents Association August, 2018



**Chris Strehl & The Links at Union Vale  
to host**

**August Meeting & NYSTA Challenge**

**Monday August 20, 2018**



## Board of Directors

**President:**

Grover Alexander, *Hudson Hills GC*

**Treasurer:**

Chris Kemble, *McCann Memorial GC*

**Secretary:**

Tim Walker, *CGCS., Leewood Golf Club*

**Past President:**

Dan Wilber, *Millbrook Golf & Tennis*

**Directors:**

Mike Aube, *Osiris Golf Club*

Ben Babbage, *Storm King GC*

Chris Dyroff, *Philip J. Rotella GC*

Reese Wasson, *Spook Rock GC*

**AF Rep:**

Dave Lippman, *Westchester Turf Supply, Inc.*

**Newsletter Editor & Executive Secretary:**

Susan O'Dowd

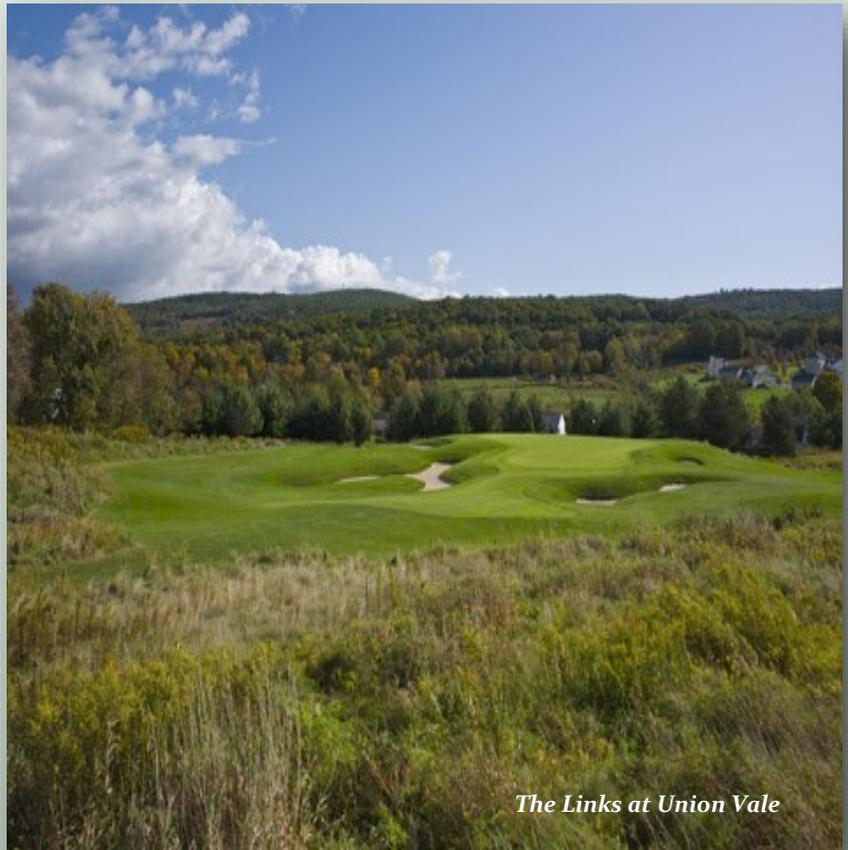
**Association Motto**

*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*

## In This Issue

President's Message.....	3
Hudson Valley News.....	5
NYSTA /The Links.....	6
Meeting Notice.....	8
Last Meeting Recap.....	10
Board of Directors Corner.....	14

# President's Message



*I would like to thank all the participants & sponsors that came out to support the Hudson Valley Cup at Rockland Country Club. We were very fortunate to get it in! As you all know planning a golf outing takes a lot of work & time that most of us don't have and the last thing you want is to get rained out. I can't thank Matt Ceplo enough for having the golf course in excellent shape under tough conditions. I hope everyone enjoyed the day and my honey?*

*We have had some changes to our board; Kevin O'Brien a board member for 7 years, has decided to step down to spend more time with his family and to focus on other projects. Kevin was a great asset to the association and we thank him for his years of service to the HVGCSA. On the other hand I would like to welcome Mike Aube from Osiris Golf Club for accepting my invite to join the board as a director.*

*Our next meeting is with NYSTA at The Links, Monday August 20<sup>th</sup>. We will be awarding 3 scholarships at this event. Don't forget the deadline for the "Big Ticket" is September 30<sup>th</sup>.*

Grover

## Upcoming Events

### September Meeting

Lazy Swan Golf Club  
Wednesday, September 12, 2018

### October Meeting

Beekman Golf Course  
Wednesday, October 10, 2018

### Tail Gate Party

West Point  
October—TBD

### Met Team Championship

TBD



## The Big Ticket - Trip to the Golf Industry Show

### 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, 2018**

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)
- ◇ \$200 spending allowance

# The Next Generation of Surfactants

## You Don't Have to Sacrifice Optimum Soil Moisture to Achieve Firm and Fast Conditions on Top...

### Turf Surfactants with a Difference

The Ocean Organics Surfactant Line provides you with ideal playing conditions and the uniform root zone soil moisture that every plant craves. Our proprietary surfactant formulations contain EO/PO Block technology to cure water repellency, a biostimulant to foster plant fitness, and a specialized penetrant.

Using our high-performance surfactants you can optimize moisture uniformity and increase the efficacy and control of your fertility and pesticide programs while conserving water.



**Ocean Organics®**

[www.oceanorganics.com](http://www.oceanorganics.com)



(203) 748-GOLF (4653)  
[www.metroturfspecialists.com](http://www.metroturfspecialists.com)



Ocean Organics is synonymous with plant fitness. We design materials that maximize plant health, hardiness, performance, stress tolerance and quality.

**SeaBlend® Stress Rx® XP Extra Protection™ NuRelease® Guarantee® Early Bird™**

# Hudson Valley News of Interest:

By: Kevin Collins

I love catching up every year with Chris Strehl while writing the article for the NYSTA Challenge. And I get to quench my thirst about anything “bee” related. This winter was extremely difficult for “bee” survival. Chris had eight hives going into the winter and lost seven of them. The one hive that survived was the hive in his office. So, how do you go about starting over? It’s fascinating. You can catch bees that are swarming and have them start their own colony. They can even create their own queens. The first queen that awakens in the hive will then kill all the other queens. It’s awesome. All hives are 95% female. The females do all the work (Worker Bees). 5% of the hive is male bees. All they do is eat and fornicate. The males (Drones) mate with the queen. And then she kills them. Outstanding!! It’s like online dating, dangerous but totally worth it. You can also purchase a “nucleus colony” or split up an existing hive to replenish your bee population. Chris is back up to eight hives. I can’t get enough “bee” news and knowledge. More to come!!

Cal Fowx, Stu Sharples, and Dan Madar absolutely did show up to



this year’s Hudson Valley Cup at Rockland CC. It was great to see them and we all hung out in the bar after to catch up. Cal, always the fashion plate, was modeling the new Chef Boyardee line of golf apparel. His checker board style golf shirt could have doubled as a table cloth at any old school Italian Trattoria. The only thing his shirt was missing were bread crumbs and wine stains.

Garrison’s Jeff Newell won the long drive at the Hudson Valley Cup. Sadly, he didn’t receive a prize as no one believed that he is capable of keeping any ball in play. The last time Jeff hit a fairway was two years ago when he flipped his cart on Garrison’s third hole.

HVGCSA President Grover Lee Alexander held his first HVGCSA Board meeting last month. None of the board members showed up. Susan O’Dowd arrived to take the meeting minutes but left abruptly as Grover and Susan haven’t spoken in months. Susan would not elaborate on the bad blood between her and Grover at press time.

The only casualty at this year’s Hudson Valley Cup were the four bottles of Cabernet that broke in Bob Neilson’s golf bag when it fell off his cart.

## SPONSORS

### **A.G. Entreprises**

Staff Uniforms  
Rick Gordon  
201-488-1276 (F) 201-489-5830  
[merrick160@gmail.com](mailto:merrick160@gmail.com)  
[www.agenterprisesonline.com](http://www.agenterprisesonline.com)

### **Aquatrols Corp. of America**

*The World Leader in Soil Surfactants  
& Wetting Agents*  
1273 Imperial Way, Paulsboro, NJ 08066  
Tom Valentine: 610-299-4470  
[tvalentine@aquatrols.com](mailto:tvalentine@aquatrols.com)

### **BASF**

*We Create Chemistry*  
Paul Ramina: 908-413-2944  
[Paul.ramina@basf.com](mailto:Paul.ramina@basf.com)

### **Bayer U.S.**

*Backed By Bayer*  
Dave Sylvester: 860-841-3173  
[David.sylvester@bayer.com](mailto:David.sylvester@bayer.com)

### **Carriere Materials, LLC**

*U.S. Silica Topdressing & Bunker Sands  
VFB Bunker Sands, Partac TopDressing*  
Bill Carriere: 914-939-4884  
[bc1000@verizon.net](mailto:bc1000@verizon.net)

### **Coombs Sod Farm**

84 Route 77, Elmer, NJ 08318  
Kevin Coombs | John Coombs  
John Coombs, Jr. | Owen Regan  
856-358-4763

### **Fisher and Son, Company**

*Green Industry Professionals Since 1928*  
Mike Weber: (C) 347-486-0480  
[mweber@fisherandson.com](mailto:mweber@fisherandson.com)

### **Grass Roots Turf Products, Inc.**

*Serving Turfgrass Professionals Since 1978*  
Ryan Avery | Keith Kubik | Nick Alley  
(O) 973-252-6634  
[www.GRIturf.com](http://www.GRIturf.com) | [sales@GRIturf.com](mailto:sales@GRIturf.com)

### **Harrell’s**

*Growing a Better World Partner for Success*  
Scott Tretera: 914-262-8638  
[stretera@harrells.com](mailto:stretera@harrells.com)  
[www.harrells.com](http://www.harrells.com)

### **Intergolf, Inc**

*Golf Course Renovation  
"Any Style Quality Assured"*  
Frank O’Dowd: (C) 914-260-7821  
[frank@intergolf.com](mailto:frank@intergolf.com)

# NYSTA Challenge

## Steve Smith Memorial Tournament

### The Links at Union Vale

#### Monday, August 20th, 2018



This year's NYSTA Challenge/Steve Smith Memorial Tournament will be held on Monday, August 20<sup>th</sup> at the "Links @ Union Vale". Our host is the irrepressible Chris Strehl, who's been at the course since its inception.

Last year's tournament generated \$14,555.00 in revenue. That brings the total monies raised since the start of the NYSTA Challenge to \$187,161.00. 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 this year's 2018 Turfgrass Advocacy Day and to support 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. And we have a great lobbyist in Rick Zimmerman. Some of the more recent proposed legislation is looking to restrict and in some instances ban the use of certain pesticides. Other environmental organizations 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 past couple of decades, the green 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, it is of the utmost importance to support NYSTA and this tournament to maintain a more equal

footing with Albany lawmakers.

"Turfgrass Advocacy Day", an event held annually in Albany, enables turf professionals 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 @ Union Vale

Our meeting site on the 20<sup>th</sup> 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 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!!

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 indoctrination at Ridgewood CC and the Ed Walsh Military Academy and Charm School, Chris left for an assistant's gig 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).



**The Industry  
Leader In Service**

We Pride Ourselves in

- Customer Service
- Technical Support
- Quality Products

We carry a full line of turf maintenance supplies from the leading manufacturers in the industry. Products include: plant protectants, fertilizers, grass seed, tools, golf course accessories, soils, topdressing, mulches, adjuvants and much more.



Follow & Tweet Us



[www.facebook.com/GrassRootsTurf](http://www.facebook.com/GrassRootsTurf)



[www.twitter.com/GrassRootsTurf](http://www.twitter.com/GrassRootsTurf)

*Serving The Turfgrass Professional Since 1978*

**Grass Roots  
Turf Products**

[www.griturf.com](http://www.griturf.com)

Address: 4 Middlebury Blvd., Suite 7, Randolph, NJ 07869  
Phone: 973-252-6634 - Email: [sales@griturf.com](mailto:sales@griturf.com)

# HVGCSA August Meeting

The Links at Union Vale

Monday, August 20, 2018



## 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  
Buffet Dinner & Open Bar

**To register:** Click [HERE](#) or call NYSTA (518) 783-1229

## SPONSORS

### **Metro Turf Specialists**

*"Customers, Our **Top** Priority"*

Matt / Scott / Jake / Rich / Todd

(O) 203-748-4653 (GOLF)

[www.metroturfspecialists.com](http://www.metroturfspecialists.com)

### **Noble Turf**

25 Roland Avenue

Mount Laurel, NJ 08054

Brian Bontemps: 845-239-7959

### **Plant Food Company, Inc.**

*The Liquid Fertilizers Experts*

Dick Neufeld: 973-945-6318

Tom Weinert: 914-262-0111

Dave Conrad: 914-263-3244

### **Saratoga Sod Farm**

1670 Route 4

Stillwater, NY 12170

Laurie Griffen

(O) 518-664-5038 (C) 518-265-0160

### **Sipcam Advan**

Augie Young

518-369-0368

[ayoung@sipcamadvan.com](mailto:ayoung@sipcamadvan.com)

### **Site One Landscape Supply**

2 John Walsh Blvd

Peekskill, NY 10566

Chad Mathieu: 914-539-5675

Owen Groves: 914-736-9056

### **Soil Solutions, LLC**

*DRILL & FILL - Aerification Professionals*

7 Whittemore Pl, Rye Brook, NY 10573

Anthony & John Decicco

(O) 914-393-0659

[soilsolutionsllc369@gmail.com](mailto:soilsolutionsllc369@gmail.com)

### **Storr Tractor Company**

3191 Highway 22

Branchburg, NJ 08876

Steve Bradley: 908-413-5640

Rick Krok: 908-413-3403



WESTCHESTER TURF SUPPLY

SERVING THE FINE  
TURF PROFESSION

***PROUDLY SERVING THE HVGCSA  
SINCE 1976***

**syngenta**



**PRECISION**  
LABORATORIES  
*Results. Expect it.*

**Plant  
Marvel**

**PrimeraOne.**



**STANDARD  
GOLF** COMPANY

***QUALITY PRODUCTS! SUPERIOR SERVICE!***

***SEE US ON THE WEB:***

**[WWW.WESTCHESTERTURF.COM](http://WWW.WESTCHESTERTURF.COM)**

***CALL ON US ANYTIME!***

**Bob Lippman, Jr: (C) 914-447-6257 [bob@westchesterturf.com](mailto:bob@westchesterturf.com)**

**Dave Lippman: (C) 914-447-5192 [Dave@westchesterturf.com](mailto:Dave@westchesterturf.com)**

# Last Meeting Recap...HV Cup at Rockland CC

by: Bill Luthin



Last meeting was the Hudson Valley Cup, our premiere event of the season. This fundraiser helps our organization fund our annual Scholarships and Turf Grass Research. We were very fortunate to have our event at the Rockland Country Club, hosted by long time member, Matt Ceplo CGCS.

We were also very fortunate that we were able to get out on the course to play. Heavy rain pounded the area in the early morning and cancelling "The Cup" was considered. Well, we did not cancel, we had a super turn out of 92 that came out to show support and play one heck of a golf course. Many thanks to Matt, his long time main man Ted Valentine, and staff for all their efforts in preparing the course for us despite the challenging conditions.

## Golf Awards:

**1<sup>st</sup> Place:** Defending Champs! Team Satch Sales - Bernie Jorgensen, Josh Yerdon, Mike Cusuria & Mike Miranda.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place:** Team Finch- George Corgan, Doug Hedderick, Tony Zagarella & Dan Coughlin.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place:** Team Syngenta- Josh Kopera, Brian Goudey, John Bresnahan, Jon Heywood

**Closest to Pin:** Chris Dyroff, PJ Rotella GC & Mike Croniser, Dogwood Knolls GC.

**Long Drive Honors:** Jeff Newell, Garrison GC, and Cal Fowx all the way from Fort Meyers, FL

**50/50 Winners:** Chris Dyroff, John Garger, Josh Kopera & Matt Ceplo.

What a great day and what an eclectic group! Ranging from new members to retired members all out for a good time, good cause and good golf. It was wonderful to see Stu and Cal back together again. I got to play with my good friend Dan Madar who was the leading force behind the HV Cup creation.

Thanks to Grover for the delicious honey from his own bee farm. Thanks to Susan O'Dowd for putting on her photographer hat. Thanks to board members, Chris Kemble, Dan Wilber, Reese Wasson, Tim Walker and Dave Lippman for their time and effort in running the show.

**Thanks to our major sponsors:**

**Metro Turf Specialists**

**Westchester Turf Supply**

**Site One Landscape Supply**

**Grass Roots Turf Products**

**Harrell's**

Thanks to the Rockland CC Pro Shop staff and Food and Beverage staff for the great hospitality and making us feel so welcome. Special thanks to Kevin Collins just for being the special person he is. Thanks to all for making this a special event year after year. Next Stop! Chris Strehl's The Links @ Union Vale GC for NYSTA's Steve Smith Memorial Challenge.

**The Northern Trust Fed Ex Cup**, Ridgewood CC, August 20-26. All the big boys will be there. One of the great courses in our area. Sign up to volunteer or come on down to watch.



# HV Cup - Meeting



 **Harrell's**

GROWING A BETTER  
**WORLD**<sup>®</sup>  
*Golf Courses*

*Liquid Nutritionals • Fertilizers  
Adjuvants • Plant Protectants • Wetting Agents*



Serve | Grow | Protect

Visit us at [www.harrells.com](http://www.harrells.com)





# *Thank You*

## *HV Cup Sponsors*

### **Premier Sponsor**

Grass Roots Turf Products  
 Harrell's  
 Metro Turf Specialists  
 Site One Landscape Supply  
 Westchester Turf Supply

### **Tee Sponsors**

A.G. Enterprises  
 Almstead Tree & Shrub  
 Aquatrols  
 BASF  
 Bayer U.S.  
 Carriere Materials  
 Coombs Sod Farm  
 Fisher & Son  
 Intergolf, Inc.  
 Noble Turf  
 Ocean Organics  
 Plant Food Company  
 Saratoga Sod Farm  
 SipCam Advan  
 Soil Solutions—Drill & Fill  
 Storr Tractor  
 Syngenta  
 Tanto Irrigation  
 Valley Green, Inc.  
 Westchester Tractor  
 Wilfred MacDonald  
 Winfield Solutions

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS CORNER



## Drones

By: Chris Dyroff



Drones on golf courses have many terrific uses including helping to market and maintain the course. Creating professional golf course drone videos is an exceptional way to increase memberships. Drones can also survey a golf course to assist in the planning and maintenance of the golf course to a high standard.



Golf courses are beautiful. However, it is not always easy to show the overall beauty of a golf course using just ground videos. With the latest drones, a Golf Course Marketing team can now easily capture the immense beauty of the golf

course, its clubhouse and the surrounding countryside to really promote and increase memberships.

All of the latest drones come with cameras and have top of the range six axis stabilization technology so it is pretty easy to film top quality aerial video. Drones are very cost effective when compared to renting a helicopter and film crew which can cost thousands of dollars.

Even the smallest golf course can afford a drone and use one regularly to film across the 4 seasons. New videos can be produced each year to show how a golf course is maturing.

A virtual tour can help in promoting a golf course. It can also assist with retention of memberships by assisting existing members to improve their game by understanding the golf course better.

Being able to study each hole using interactive golf videos will help improve a players game. It will allow them to read each hole and make better club selection. This will ultimately bring down their golf handicap, which is what every golfer wants.

The most scenic of golf courses will have a wide variety of flowers, fauna, shrubs and trees. The health of these plants and vegetation is very important to the beauty of the course. Being able to prevent pest infestation and disease is vital to the health of a golf course.

Early morning golf course flyovers will allow maintenance teams to survey and evaluate all aspects of the golf course and get a full picture quickly before the golf course opens for play. This allows maintenance

## SPONSORS

### **Syngenta**

Manufacture of Plant Protection Products  
Daconil Action, Acelepryn, Ference  
Brian Goudey: 518-764-2412  
[www.greencastonline.com](http://www.greencastonline.com)

### **Tanto Irrigation**

5. N. Payne Street, Elmsford, NY 10523  
Steve Kubicki: 203-988-6620  
Paul L. Guillaro: 914-262-7324

### **Valley Green, Inc**

205 Wilson Ave, Norwalk, CT 06854  
Gregory Moran: (C) 845-901-1358  
(O) 203-831-9748

### **W & B Golf Carts, Inc.**

3391 Route 9, Hudson, NY 12534  
Jason Hommel | Mike Behan  
518-851-2266

### **Westchester Tractor, Inc.**

60 International Boulevard  
Brewster, NY 10509  
John Apple| Jeff Underhill  
845-278-7766  
[www.wtractor.com](http://www.wtractor.com)

### **Westchester Turf Supply, Inc.**

"Serving the HVGCSA Since 1976"  
Bob Lippman: 914-447-6257  
Dave Lippman: 914-447-5192  
[info@westchesterturf.com](mailto:info@westchesterturf.com)

### **Wilfred MacDonald Inc.**

Turf Equipment Specialists  
Bill Luthin (C) 201-214-5901  
(O) 888-831-0891 (F) 201-931-1730  
[billy@wilfredmacdonald.com](mailto:billy@wilfredmacdonald.com)

### **Winfield Solutions, LLC**

"Service, Solutions, Insight"  
Mike DiLorenzo, CGCS: 518-428-8625  
Rob Saunders: 203-249-5059  
[mwdilorenzo@landolakes.com](mailto:mwdilorenzo@landolakes.com)

## Board of Director's Corner...cont'd

teams to respond quickly if there are any aspects around the course which require urgent attention.

Here are just some of the benefits from using drone aerial videos by Golf Course Green Keepers and Maintenance Teams:

- Quick overview from a height of the golf course to see if there is any major problems.
- Survey for damaged trees, fencing and buildings after strong winds.
- Check fairways and greens, especially after heavy rain to see if the course is now playable. Send maintenance personnel directly to where issues are.
- Monitor the golf course to see if there is any unusual activity or illegal playing.

In conclusion, drones are a relatively inexpensive and fun way to keep an eye on what is happening on your course.

*Chris Dyroff*



\*\*\*\*\*

## NYSTA Challenge Steve Smith Memorial...cont'd

In 1998 Chris was hired by the IGA to grow in the “Links”. 2018 marks Chris’s 20<sup>th</sup> 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 soul-mate Debbie. Debbie and Chris tied the knot in 2004. Together they have built quite a life. The Strehl clan includes Jack 12, Anna 11, and Joseph 9, and of course, River, the family’s rambunctious black lab and Brook, a Beagle that never stops barking.

*Kevin Collins*





**EVERY SUPERINTENDENT  
NEEDS A GOOD CADDIE.**

Let us try out for the part. We can provide all the supplies you need to keep your course looking its best. And with our knowledgeable staff, we can help you make an ace.

**CHAD R. MATHIEU**  
SiteOne™ Landscape Supply  
Golf Sales/Agronomic  
Sales Representative  
c: 914-539-5675  
CMathieu@SiteOne.com

1.800.SiteOne | SiteOne.com



**SiteOne™**  
LANDSCAPE SUPPLY

**Stronger Together**