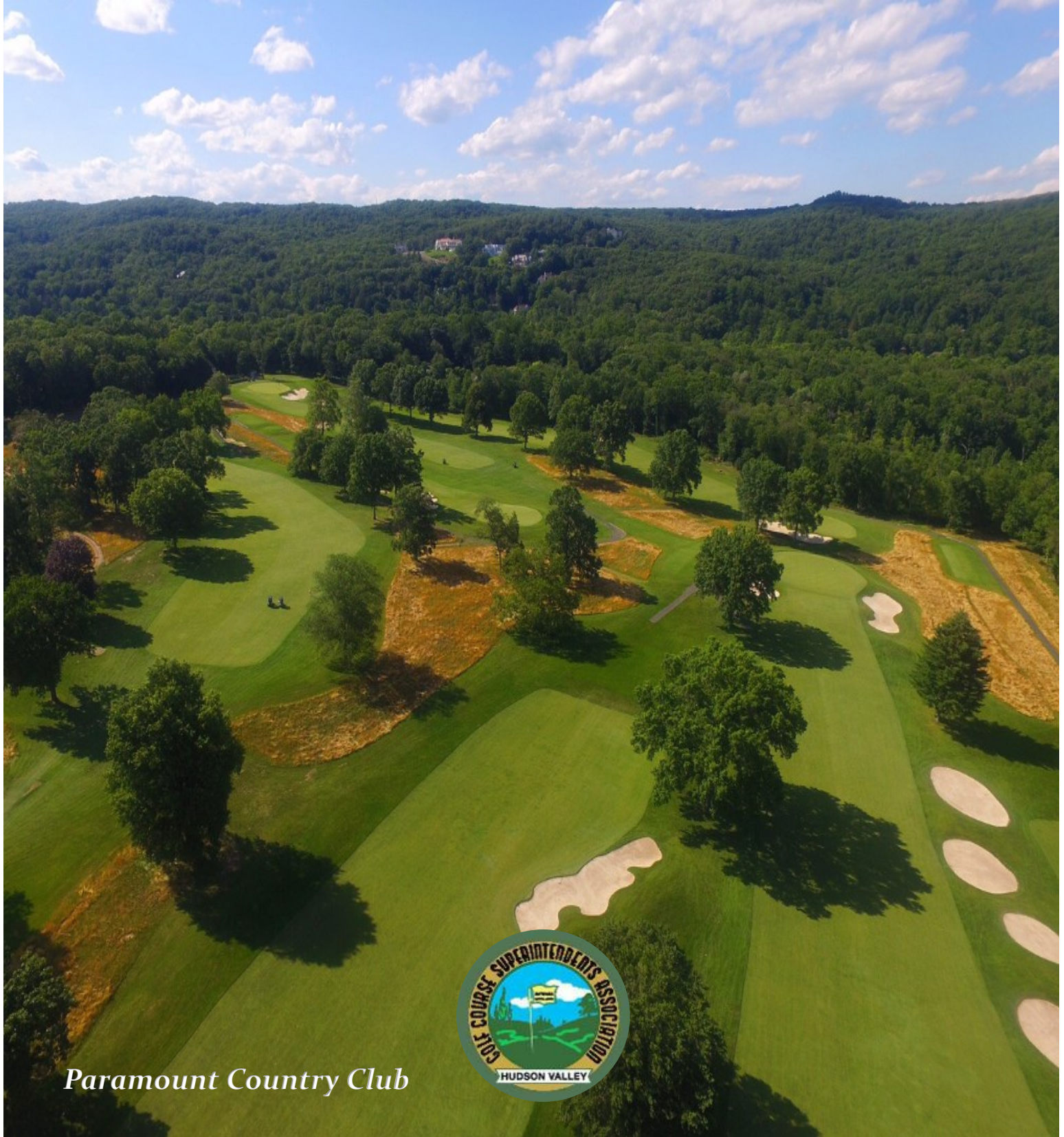


FOREGROUND

VOL. 59 NO. 2 Published by Hudson Valley Golf Course Superintendents Association May 2022



Paramount Country 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



It seems the weather never wants to cooperate when it comes to golf course management. It's either too hot, too cold, too wet, or too dry. Never been truer than the spring of 2022. One thing we have all learned, or some will soon learn, is that Mother Nature is always in control. Whether you are trying to recover from winter injury, growing in new turf areas, or just trying to condition your golf course, no spring could be tougher than this one for quite some time.

We had a tough decision to make in cancelling the April meeting at Wiltwyck. I know Jason Nalepa was looking forward to hosting it and working hard to get the golf course in top shape for our members and guests from the NEGCSA. Unfortunately, multiple rain events leading up to that morning kept us away. There was upwards of a foot of snow in the Catskill mountains. Hopefully, Jason and Wiltwyck will give us another chance to get up there for another meeting at a later date.

I am looking forward to warmer and sunnier weather in the coming weeks. With that, I am also looking forward to seeing everyone at Paramount Country Club on May 9th for our HV Cup tournament. Matt Kerens is working really hard to showcase those firm and fast Tillinghast greens. It will be a day filled of fun, competition, and camaraderie amongst your peers. This is also our premier event where we raise funds for Scholarships and Turfgrass Research.

For those who are interested, I encourage you to submit your scholarship applications soon. Applications are due by July 1st.

See you all on the 9th!

All the best,
Tim



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Paramount Country Club to host Hudson Valley Cup

By: Kevin Collins

On Monday May 9th, Paramount CC and Superintendent Matthew Kerens will welcome the HVGCSA to the club to compete for the Hudson Valley Cup (HVC). The HVC is celebrating its 30th year as the premiere fundraising event for the Association. Monies raised go for scholarships and turfgrass research. This tournament was the brainchild of long time HVGCSA member Dan Madar and, to date, has raised close to \$130,000. Matt looks forward to a big turnout. Paramount is a fun tract to play.

History of Paramount CC:

Adolph Zukor, one of the three founders of Paramount Pictures, was an early pioneer in the motion picture industry. He and Thomas Edison played key roles in the advent of “talkies”, motion pictures with actual sound and dialogue which didn’t happen until the late 1920’s. It transformed the movie industry.

In 1918, Zukor was looking for a country retreat away from Manhattan and Paramount’s studios in Fort Lee, NJ. He purchased a 300-acre estate in New City, in the foothills of the Ramapo mountains, complete with a swimming pool and a nine-hole golf course. It was called Mountain View Farm. Zukor used the property to entertain many of the prominent actors and celebrities of the day including Mary Pickford, Douglas Fairbanks, Clark Gable, Charlie Chaplin, The Prince of Wales, and Herbert Hoover.

Two years later Zukor bought an adjacent 500 acres and, in 1920, asked A.W. Tillinghast (the only man that drank more Bombay Gin than KC) to build him a new 18-hole golf course. The course was completed in 1922.

The Depression hit the movie industry hard and by 1933 Paramount was in bankruptcy. Zukor held onto the estate until 1948 when he sold it to Bernard Nemeroff, a NY attorney who worked in the garment manufacturing industry. Shortly after, Nemeroff renamed Tilly’s creation Dells Golf & CC (and later Dellwood CC) and recruited members for the new club primarily from the garment industry. The club operated smoothly until 1962. Financial woes forced Nemeroff to offer the membership a 100-year lease on the property and he was out.

In 2009, the property was purchased by the Mendelbaum family. They saw tremendous potential in Dellwood, vowing to restore the club and its course to its past greatness. With the new ownership came a new name, Paramount CC. Architect Jim Urbina was hired to bring back the challenges and features that were uniquely and unequivocally Tillinghast. The course remains relatively intact from its original design to this day. It is best known for its small greens, deep bunkering, and dramatic elevation changes.

Continued....page 14

Hudson Valley Cup Tournament



Paramount Country Club

60 Zukor Rd, New City, NY

Monday, May 09, 2022

Host: Matt Kerens, GCS

10:30 AM Registration

11:00 AM BBQ Lunch

12:30 PM Golf: Shotgun 4-Person Best Ball

5:30 PM Open Bar, Buffet Dinner & Awards

Fee: \$190 per person (Golf, Lunch, Dinner & Open Bar)

\$60pp (Dinner & Open Bar)

Dress Code: Proper Golf Attire

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WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT - REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

The Grass IS Greener on the Other Side

By

Dominic J. Morales, NYSTA Board member and Professor Emeritus, SUNY-Delhi

The New York State Turfgrass Association, on behalf of the green industry, provides educational opportunities, networking, advocacy and policy development, research support, youth outreach and career development, while advocating for environmentally responsible management.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics 2020 Industry Outlook

Presently Over **200,000** Technicians Supervisors, Managers, etc.

Predicts in the next 10 years over **55,000** career opportunities will be created per year

A much-touted statistic is that nearly **99%** of graduates who earn a certificate, or a degree are successful in securing full time employment right out of an Apprenticeship or degree program—few industries can rival that success rate!

NYSTA's newest workforce initiative will offer Registered Apprenticeship for golf courses, sports turf, and turf businesses in New York State. The program will help NYSTA employer partners find and secure talent for specialized skilled positions as there is a significant shortage of industry trained and educated professionals. NYSTA has developed a strategic partnership with **Tyler Bloom Consulting** to create statewide apprenticeship program for the turfgrass industry.

The goal of this project is to provide a career pathway for job seekers throughout New York State for golf courses, sports facilities, athletic fields, lawn/landscape, and other turf-oriented businesses. The outcomes will help create better paying jobs, increase access to continued education, career readiness training, and support recruitment initiatives to underrepresented communities.

Continued funding through our TEF annual grant request will also enable us to translate the program for primarily Spanish speaking individuals, the development of a Pre-Apprenticeship programs offered at New York State high schools that have Agriculture Education and are FFA chapter schools and assist with continued marketing efforts.

Three registered apprenticeship programs have been developed and submitted to the New York State Department of Labor-Workforce Development office for approval and certification.

Groundskeeper II-Golf Course

Groundskeeper II-Sports Turf

Turf Equipment Technician

These programs will offer a formal on-the-job training program (4,000 hours), plus additional education, and certificates (144 hours) from the following related instruction cooperators over a 2-year period:



OSHA-10 Certification

GCSAA Assistant Certificate - Environmental Stewardship

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SFMA Sports Field Turfgrass Science Webinars

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NYSTA Webinar Series

15-college credits from SUNY-Delhi in turfgrass management, soil science, etc. towards an AAS degree.

Penn Foster Automotive Service Technician Certificate

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT...cont'd

Groundskeeper II Apprentices (Golf Course and Sports Field) will receive 4,000 hours of on-the-job training including competencies in the following areas:

Small engine and diesel engine equipment operation

Pesticide usage, safety and record keeping

Golf course and sports field preparations

Project management skills in drainage, slope, sodding

Tree management care

Irrigation philosophy and best management practices

Horticulture and landscape installation and management

Soil management

Pest management



Equipment Technician Apprentices will receive 4,000 hours of on-the-job training including competencies in the following areas:

Small engine and diesel service

Computer literacy for record keeping and documentation

HVAC preventative maintenance service

Four stroke engine service and repair

Welding and fabrication

Mower set up and service

Summary

NYSTA Apprenticeship Program is a State and National Occupational Credential. Completion of the program re-

sults in a state and nationally recognized credential which guarantees to employers that:

Trained individuals are qualified for the job through training and educational programs. Individuals complete a combination of on-the-job training, classroom instruction, and professional development to earn a Certificate of Completion in Apprenticeship, awarded by the NYS and U.S. Department of Labor.

The certificate is commonly referred to as a journey worker credential. The apprentice is extended the privilege of earning income as a full-time employee while he or she learns a skilled craft.

The NYSTA Apprenticeship Program:

Connects motivated workers with experts in the turf industry.

Provides comprehensive training to advance skills and qualifications on a state and national level.

Builds a trusted workforce of turfgrass professionals.

The apprentice works with a mentor for 4,000 hours or more where knowledge is acquired by the apprentice.

Apprenticeships are a partnership between the employer who offers on-the-job training, the apprentice works for the employer with the support of NYSTA.

Apprenticeship programs have been used by many industries for attracting and training employees for decades.

There has been a resurgence in the importance of apprenticeship programs.

The Apprentice Program is an investment, remember that growing your staff and the turfgrass management profession is an investment. It will take both time and money. Use some of your recruiting budget or your marketing budget to help. Your employees are your biggest investment. Keep in mind, participating and developing as many of these recruiting activities is essential to your success. Information on the apprenticeship program should be a constant in your recruiting. The continued success of our profession depends on all of us promoting the benefits of turfgrass management and the profession.

What Are the Benefits of Becoming a NYSTA sponsored Apprentice?

Hands-on career training provided by an experienced mentor with additional classroom and "on-line" train-

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Hudson Valley News of Interest:

By: Kevin Collins



*If you've been wondering what retired former Spook Rock superintendent Dan Madar has been doing in his spare time, he's working as a judge at barbecue contests. Seen here judging some ribeye steaks, Dan is also an expert on all things chicken and pork. Dan was briefly hospitalized a few months ago with a bad case of meat sweats but is now back on

the barbecue circuit evaluating smoke rings, tug, and all that barbecue shit.

*Always trying to stay ahead of the curve, Patriot Hills superintendent Evan Weymouth recently purchased and restored a handicap scooter that he plans to use after retirement. He looks forward to the day when he can bump into shoppers at Stop & Shop and generally piss everyone off.

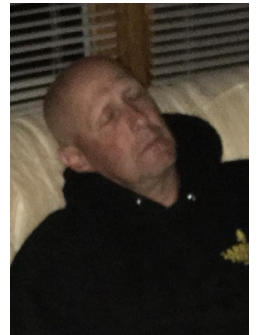


*Noble Turf's Brian Bon-temps has become a Moonshiner. He says the whole secret to good moonshine is a hot fire. Brian makes all kinds of high proof spirits and sells them on his website wantcirrhosis.com.



*New York CC superintendent Rob Lehman was so desperate for an assistant that he hired his 5-month old baby Gracie. All kidding aside, congratulations to Rob & family. Gracie is a cutie.

*Southern Dutchess superintendent Jeff Newell got caught sleeping in his office by the crew on his first day at work. This picture was taken just before crew members wrote obscenities on Jeff's forehead with a sharpie.



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Mike Maffei, CGCS Celebrates 50 Years in the HVGCSA

By: Kevin Collins



At the HVGCSA annual meeting in February, Mike Maffei was honored by HVGCSA President Tim Walker for Mike's 50-year anniversary as a member of the association. We felt that it would be more than appropriate to recognize this milestone in The Foreground.

The Journey Begins

Mike was born and raised in Clinton, MA. Mike's dad Albert managed a dairy farm. Mike's mom Mary was a RN until she married Albert and started a family. In the

mid-1950's, when the farm was no longer profitable enough to raise his family, Albert changed careers and went to work for a fuel distribution company delivering heating oil, diesel, and gasoline until his retirement. Mike credits his success to his mom's stressing the importance of education and his dad instilling in him a strong work ethic.

Mike's career in turf began at age 16. As fate would have it, one of Albert's fuel delivery stops was the International GC in Bolton MA. Albert had developed a friendship with the golf course superintendent and inquired about a summer job for Mike. Unfortunately, there were no positions available. The superintendent's brother-in-law, John Almonte (superintendent at Worcester County Club), had an opening and Mike started work on the crew where he remained for the next five seasons

"John Almonte's father-in-law, Simi, was the superintendent at Worcester prior to John taking over and still hung around the golf course," Mike reminisced, "Simi would always tell me that I should pursue a career in the turfgrass industry, that it was my calling. I was accepted at UMass and planned to major in Agricultural Engineering. Semi won me over and I switched my major to Plant & Turf Science. With the legendary Joe Troll as my advisor, I completed my studies in 1971. At the 1971 UMass turf show in Chicopee I interviewed with Pat Lucas (the superintendent at Morefar), and was hired as his assistant. In June of '71, Pat was promoted to General Manager and in the fall of '71, on Pat's recommendation, I was promoted to the golf course superintendent position".

Morefar

Designed and built by Architect Ed Ryder, Morefar opened in 1964 as a 9-hole venue. The course was established by Cornelius Vander Starr who had founded the company known as American International Group over 40 years earlier. Mr. Starr passed away in 1968 and his ashes are interred in a Memorial site behind the 15th tee. Mr. Maurice (Hank) Greenberg, formerly CEO of American International Group and later the CEO of Starr Companies, an insurance and investment company, maintains the management of Morefar. Mike credits

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New York State Bans all Fowl Shows and Exhibitions to Safeguard Against Avian Flu

The New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets announced that it has issued an order to ban all live fowl shows and exhibitions in New York State to help prevent the spread of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) to the state's poultry population. Commissioner Richard A. Ball issued the order as a result of the continuing spread of strains of HPAI in the United States, including detections in New York State. The current outbreak has impacted 17 states so far and is rapidly expanding nationwide. Commissioner Ball said, "Avian influenza is a very serious threat to all poultry and breeds of fowl, and is continuing to spread in the United States. By banning fowl shows and exhibitions in New York until further notice, we are taking a commonsense step to limit the co-mingling of birds to slow the spread of this disease in New York State and help keep our birds safe. Our poultry industry is a significant part of New York's agricultural industry and steps like these are our best line of defense against the disease." The ban will remain in effect until further notice. The Department is continuing close monitoring of HPAI in New York State and plans to reassess the Notice of Order in late May to determine whether it should remain in place through the summer fair season. As with the previous ban, this ban will remain in effect until further notice. The Department is continuing close monitoring of HPAI in New York State and plans to reassess this Notice of Order in late May to determine whether it should remain in place through the summer. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, these recent HPAI detections in birds do not present an immediate public health concern. No human cases of these avian influenza viruses have been detected in the United States. The detections of HPAI in New York prompt reminders for commercial and hobby poultry farmers to increase their biosecurity measures to help prevent the spread of the disease. Poultry owners should keep their birds away from wild ducks and geese and their droppings. Outdoor access for poultry should be limited at this time. Additionally, the Department encourages all poultry producers, from small backyard to large commercial operations, to review their biosecurity plans and take precautions to protect their birds. To report sick birds, unexplained high number of deaths, or sudden drop in egg production, please contact the Department's Division of Animal Industry at (518) 457-3502 or the USDA at (866) 536-7593.

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WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT...cont'd By

*Dominic J. Morales, NYSTA Board member and
Professor Emeritus, SUNY-Delhi*

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Not everyone has what it takes to become a turfgrass management apprentice. These apprenticeships are reserved for those who enjoy the outdoors and like working with their hands. They are for those who relish working as part of a team and take pride in seeing a project completed... those who aren't afraid of hard work or rolling up their sleeves to get a job done. They are for men and women who don't want to stay in the same job.

For more information visit the NYSTA website at

<https://www.nysta.org>

Save the Dates

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

Paramount CC to Host HV Cup....cont'd

Matthew Kerens:



Matt was born and raised on the south shore of Massachusetts in Marshfield. His dad, Bill, was a marketing professional who, in 2008, changed careers and opened a café. His mom Tammy worked in finance and retired to raise her family. When the family got a little older she became a middle school teacher.

In high school, Matt got his first taste of golf course maintenance working at a local club, Green Harbor. Upon graduating high school, Matt travelled south to the University of Tampa to major in Criminology. After some soul searching, Matt knew his calling was in the golf industry. He enrolled at UMass and switched his major Turfgrass Management. He had some great internships in New England at Cohasset and Charles River CC's. After obtaining his 4-year degree, it was time to start his career. Remarkably, it's all been at Paramount.

Matt went to work for Brian Chapin in 2014 as his 2nd Assistant. In 2016, Matt moved up to 1st Assistant. In 2017, Brian left to become superintendent at Rolling Green CC in Springfield, PA. Matt took over as Paramount's superintendent.

Even after all of Jim Urbina's renovations to the course, there's still work to be done. Matt and his crew are doing an in-house bunker renovation using capillary concrete. And throw in some tee work too. No rest for the weary.

On a personal note, Matt lives in Haverstraw with his girlfriend Samantha. We'll see you at the HVC.

Kevin Collins



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Mike Maffei, CGCS Celebrates 50 Years....cont'd

much of his success to Mr. Greenberg and their 50-year relationship.

C.V. Starr originally built the course for his key employees, Quaker Hill friends, and corporate associates. In 1976, Morefar instituted corporate memberships, a structure which continues to this day. Current annual rounds average around 2,500 although for a period of time in the 1990's, the club averaged 6,500 rounds.

When Mike arrived in '71, construction on the back nine was winding down. Once again, Ed Ryder was the architect and builder. Mike was given the responsibility of growing it in. "How Morefar and I survived this is a miracle," Mike laughed, "Here I am, a 21-year-old kid from Massachusetts with no construction experience or experience with the weather conditions in Metropolitan NY, growing in 9 holes. With the support of Pat Lucas and a good staff we pulled in off and opened the back nine in May of 1972."

Morefar undertook and completed a 3-million-dollar master plan with Stephen Kay in 2005-2008 including bunker renovation, new tees, a few green expansions, and a new irrigation system.

The course is a par 72 and plays 6767 yards from the tips. The property includes a small clubhouse for lunch service, locker room, guest accommodations, pool, and two grass tennis courts.

"The two nines can't be any more different," Mike reported, "the front nine is short and compact and the back nine is long and wide open."

Mike lives next to the course with his wife of 41 plus years, Anne. Mike's two daughters, Karen and Elizabeth, have provided Mike and Anne with 5 grandchildren whose ages range from 4 to 26. Mike has had the pleasure of employing the two oldest boys on the maintenance staff over the years.

Giving Back

Mike has always been a fierce advocate and a leader for our industry. His contributions have been numerous.

*MetGCSA President 1981-82

*Sherwood A Moore Award Winner 1994

*Bayer Unity Award

*HVGCSA Board Member

*2-time NYSTA President

*30 Year NYSTA Board Member (1989 – 2020, continuous service with the exception of 1 yr.)

*NYSTA Citation of Merit Award Winner 2001

*SUNY Delhi Plant Science Board Member

*Current Board Member and Treasurer of the New York Green Industry Council

*Current Board Member and Treasurer of GreenPac

*Current Board Member and Treasurer of the Empire State Council of Agricultural

Organizations

And at age 72, Mike is still going strong. I asked Mike if he ever thinks about retirement. "I still love what I do," Mike smiled, "if I wake up one morning and don't feel like going to work, I'll retire."

Thank you, Mike, for all you've done for our industry.

Kevin Collins



1980 - Mike Maffei, newly elected MetGCSA President with Pio Salvati & Bob Alonzi



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BOARD OF DIRECTORS CORNER

What's a labor-challenged golf course superintendent to do?

I would like to share this article written by Andrew Hartsock for the GCSAA Conference . I know some of my fellow HVGCSA members didn't get a chance to attend the GIS or don't receive the GCM newsletter.



Just how does a panel of speakers discussing golf course management's most pressing need — labor — plan to cover the myriad forces at play in a mere 60 minutes?

"Talk fast. Very fast," says Tyler Bloom, one-sixth of the presenting team for the GCSAA Conference and Trade Show Power Hour "Strategies for Pushing Through Labor Challenges." Bloom, a superintendent-turned-consultant.

[Bloom](#) is a GCSAA Class A superintendent and 10-year association member who in June 2020 launched Tyler Bloom Consulting, a Bloomsburg, Pa.-based company focused on recruiting and workforce development in the turfgrass, green and club industries. While director of grounds and facilities at Sparrows Point Country Club in Baltimore, Bloom won GCSAA's 2020 Leo Feser Award for the year's [best superintendent-authored article](#) in *GCM*. His article detailed Sparrows Point's partnership with a local organization that connects residents who have intellectual or developmental disabilities with employment opportunities.

Click [HERE](#) for full article

Vince Barnaba
The Powelton Club

The NEGCSA are extending an invite to the HVGCSA members to their upcoming meeting.



Wolferts Roost Country Club

120 Van Rensselaer Boulevard

Albany, NY 12204

May 23, 2022

More details coming soon ...