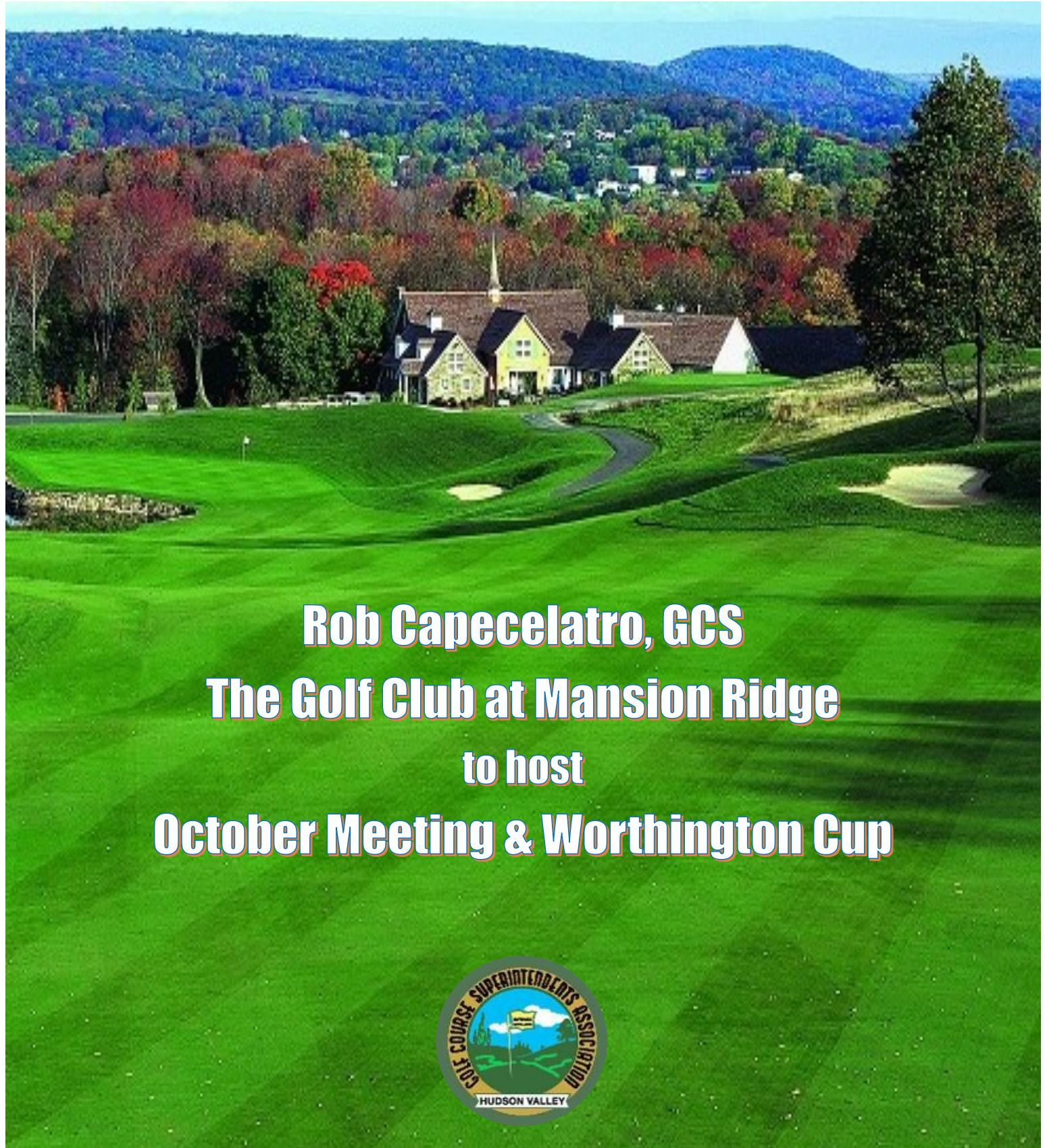


FOREGROUND

VOL. 57 NO. 4 Published by Hudson Valley Golf Course Superintendents Association September, 2020



**Rob Capecelatro, GCS
The Golf Club at Mansion Ridge
to host
October Meeting & Worthington Cup**



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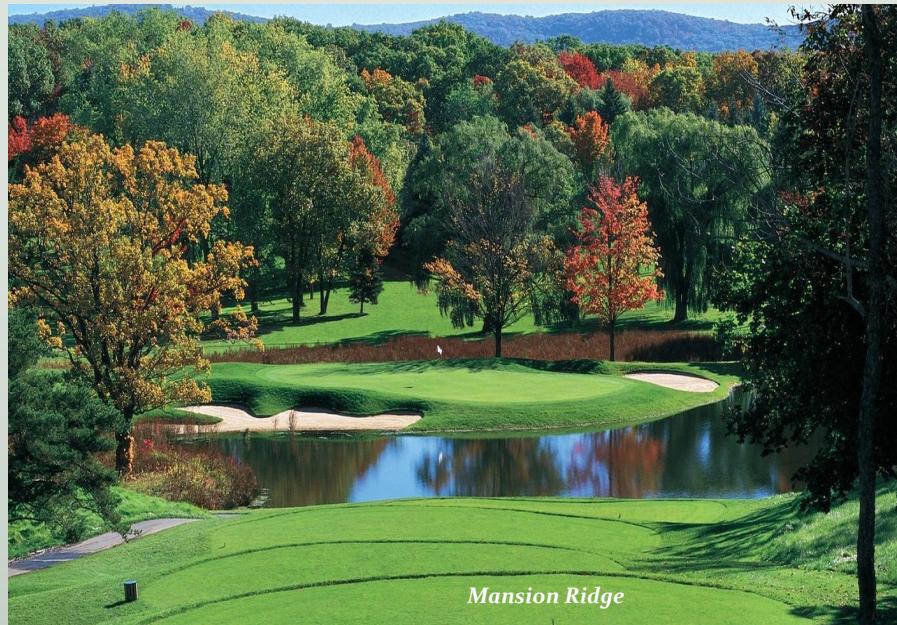
Association Motto

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 would like to thank Chris Strehl and his staff for a job well done at The Links at Union Vale. We had a great turn out for a remarkable day of golf. Congrats to the home team for taking the win. Our next meeting will be hosted by Rob Capecelatro at The Golf Club at Mansion Ridge on October 5th. Bring your "A" game because we will be playing for the Worthington Cup.

The season is finally starting to wind down and the prepping of the courses for the winter begins. It's been a busy season and I'm sure you are all looking forward to some down time.

The year of virtual everything!!

The GCSAA has notified us that the National Convention is going virtual. I'm sure this is disappointing to those who were looking forward to a trip to Las Vegas, but it's a great opportunity for the rest of us who were unable to attend the GIS in the past. You can now register for the virtual classes/seminars/trade show and get the experience without the travel and expenses. Try to use this opportunity to introduce your Greens Chairman or Owners to the information the GCSAA has to offer. This year we have a local superintendent running for the GCSAA board of directors, Marc Weston from the Connecticut Assocs. The Chapter Delegates meeting will also be held via Zoom.

NYSTA will not be holding the seminar at Resorts World Catskills this year. Instead, they will be teaming up with the DEC to offer virtual classes. You will be able to earn credits towards your license virtually. NYSTA will be offering the HV members a discounted rate for the seminars with their annual dues which will be billed with the HVGCSA annual dues.

Lobby Day will more than likely be virtual. I don't have the date yet, but I recommend that everyone make time in your schedule to participate. We need all the support we can get to make sure our industry has a voice and that we are heard loud and clear.

Our sponsors! I can't say this enough times, our sponsors and their support to our association is priceless. They have stuck with us this year through uncertainty and I strongly encourage you to reach out to thank and support them.

Regards,

Chris Kemble

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Hudson Valley News of Interest

By: Kevin Collins

Hudson Hills Superintendent Grover Lee Alexander has taken the art of harvesting honey to a new level. He is now fermenting the honey, the process used to turn the honey's natural sugars into alcohol, and has come up with a novel honey based liquor. The new concoction is 80 proof and packs a punch. Grover is seriously thinking about taking his new invention to the marketplace. He plans on calling the new product "Brain Sting". Grover commented, "This stuff is kick-ass. I had two shots of it last night and.....the last thing I remember is trying to brush something off my shoulder and it was the floor".

I have more to report on the trials and tribulations of Tim Garceau's dog Murphy. Tim was feeling sorry for Murphy, still encased in his full body cast and down in the dumps, and decided to take him to a dirt



bike meet in upstate NY to cheer him up. Unbeknownst to Tim, the bike meet was simultaneously holding a Trump rally which predictably had a large contingent of left wingers nearby protesting the Trump supporters. Unfortunately, Murphy managed to wander into the counter protest with a prominent Trump 2020 campaign sticker affixed to his body cast. When an obviously distraught Tim finally located his beloved pet, he found Murphy's body cast covered with Antifa and BLM stickers along with some incendiary comments written on the cast with a sharpie. It is an understatement to report that Murphy was traumatized by his experience. Murphy is currently back home under heavy sedation. Please keep Murphy in your prayers.



Congratulations to Patriot Hill's Superintendent Evan Weymouth on his recent engagement to his better half Sally. Evan doesn't exactly remember proposing to Sally as he has been spending an inordinate amount of time consuming "Brain Sting" over at Hudson Hills with Grover Lee.



Garrison's Jeff Newell, looking to the future, has purchased a campground in Beaver Creek, NY (near Lake George) to bolster his income when he retires from Garrison or sooner if Garrison CC's property is completely taken over by the local Shakespeare Theatre Company. The only issue is that the campground is only accessible by canoe. Jeff commented, "I have to admit that access to the site is a stumbling block. I couldn't get a right-of-way from a neighboring property into the campground. I plan on building cottages so any customers can travel light. I'm looking to contract with a local water taxi company to supply transportation".



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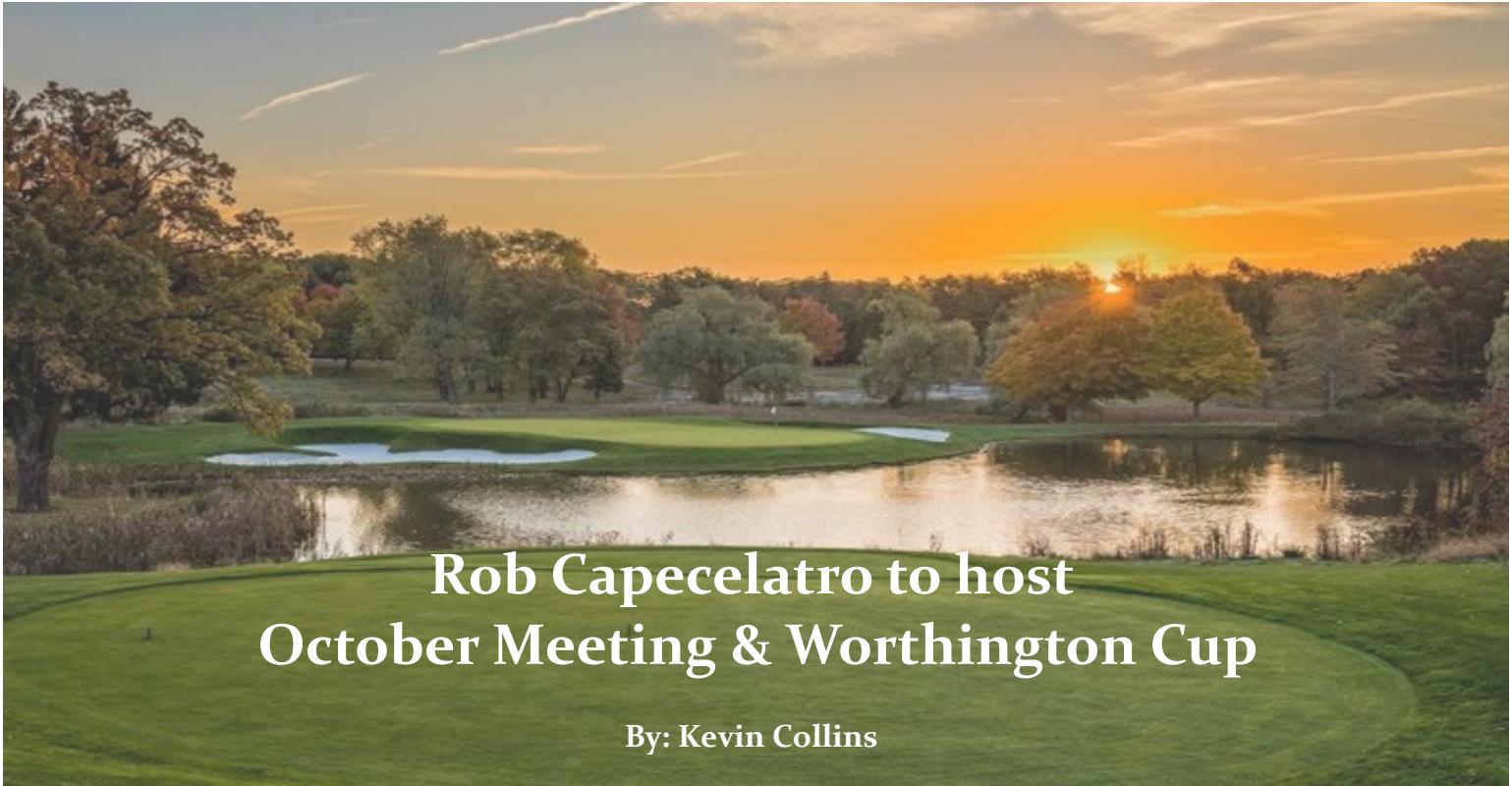
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Rob Capecelatro to host October Meeting & Worthington Cup

By: Kevin Collins

On Monday October 5th, Superintendent Rob Capecelatro and Golf Club at Mansion Ridge will host the HVGCSA for its October Meeting.

Mansion Ridge is a challenging layout. It plays 6850 yards from the tips. As Rob describes it, "It's like two golf courses in one. The first five holes have a "links" feel. Then it turns into a "parkland" style course, elevated tees and well bunkered greens complexes, and tight fairways with decent carries to get to them. It's a classic Nicklaus course".

Mansion Ridge was the brainchild of Dana Distributors of Middletown NY and was built in the late 1990's. It opened for play in 1999. For all the old-time Hudson Valley members who remember, the "unsinkable" legend Ed Walsh grew in the course.

Mansion Ridge is "semi-private", the course is open to the public but you can join and be a member. The golf course suffered in recent years, like many courses, with the golfer population shrinking but is staging a comeback. Rob comments, "Troon came in to manage operations. Lots of improvements have been made to the course. They've been a good company to work for". And Covid-19 was a real shot in the arm for the industry, bringing many golfers back to the courses, both public and private.

The Journey Begins



"I was born in Orange CT, not too far from New Haven", Rob reminisced, "My dad Rick and older brother Kevin worked in turf renovating and maintaining ball fields, minor league parks. They formed a company, "Sports Turf of Connecticut" which is still going strong. So, naturally I went to work for them when I was a teenager". "I loved playing golf and when I was 17 I went to work on the maintenance crew at Orange Hills GC. After high school, I enrolled in college to major in Physical Education. That lasted two years and I decided to take some time off from school and figure things out. Then I went to work at Great River GC in Milford, CT".

Rob decided that golf maintenance was going to be his career and enrolled at Michigan State University to get his degree in turf, which he did, graduating in 2009.

The Career

In 2008, Rob made a wise choice taking an intern position at LA Country Club. They were in the middle of an extensive Gil Hanse renovation and the experience and the contacts he made while there were invaluable.

Continued....page 14

GCSAA Resources and Deadlines

you Get Cool Stuff from your Association Already:

Upcoming webinars

Oct. 1 @ 10 a.m.

Drainage: Triple Trouble Series Part One

Jim Murphy, Ph.D.

Oct. 15 @ 9 a.m.

Air Movement: Triple Trouble Series Part Two

Bud White, CPG

Oct. 21 @ 10 a.m.

Calibrating Your Sprayers and Selecting the Right Nozzles

Aaron J. Patton, Ph.D.

Oct. 29 @ 9 a.m.

Shade: Triple Trouble Series Part Three

Mike Richardson, Ph.D.

GCSAA/Golf Digest Environmental Leaders in Golf Awards

Presented by GCSAA and *Golf Digest* in partnership with Syngenta, the Environmental Leaders in Golf Awards recognize golf course superintendents and golf courses around the world for their commitment to environmental stewardship.

In 2018, the ELGAs were updated to recognize more superintendents in more focused areas of environmental sustainability. The ELGAs are based on the environmental best management practices that GCSAA recommends all courses utilize.

There are four ELGAs available:

- Natural Resource Conservation Award
- Healthy Land Stewardship Award
- Communications and Outreach Award

Innovative Conservation Award

There will be one winner and two runners-up recognized for each award. GCSAA members may apply to one, two, three or all four awards in a single year. However, an individual can only win one award per year.

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Scholarship Recipients

We would like to congratulate our 2020 recipients on receiving the Ernie Steinhofer Legacy scholarship award. Every year we offer 2 Legacy and 1 Bill Smart scholarship awards. This year for the first time in a while we received 4 applications for the Legacy award and none for the Bill Smart. Due to unusual times with the COVID pandemic the board decided to increase the scholarship budget and award each of these amazing applicants. We wish all the winners the best of luck for their upcoming school year.



Emma Halderman, daughter of Blake Halderman

"I am proud of everything I have accomplished. I have performed on and off the field being named Field Hockey and Lacrosse Scholar Athlete, I play the violin in Honors Orchestra, I am a member of the National Honor Society (which includes 100+ hours of community service) and took several AP classes in high school. I believe my hard work in the classroom, in the community and on the field led me to deserve the Ernest Steinhofer Scholarship."

Emma is attending the University of New Hampshire .



Jessica Krok, daughter of Rick Krok

"I would be deserving of this scholarship not only because I give back to the community frequently, but I do it with a purpose. I've worked with a multitude of people that have changed my life for the better, and I hope to make strong relationships in whatever career I choose to do after college".

Jessica is attending Weber State University, Ogden, Utah.



Jennifer Krok, daughter of Rick Krok

Pursuing a degree in Physical Therapy. "One of the reasons why I had chosen the health science field is the people in my life, whether if be my teammates or family members, they have needed physical therapy from an athletic trainer. When being part of a team, it is important for athletes to recover as soon as possible to return to performing their best".

Jennifer is attending Delaware Technical Community College



Presley Gurney, daughter of Guy Gurney

"My life experiences, whether good or bad have made me who I am. The obstacles I have encountered, such as my family's struggles with my mom's autoimmune diseases, don't define me nor do they label me as "broken". Instead, they have taught me how to better myself as a person in general".

As you can see, Presley is attending University of Connecticut.

Ken Benoit's Cross-Country Bike Trek to Promote BMP's

By: Kevin Doyle, GCSAA

As 2020 progresses, the 50 by 2020 Best Management Practices (BMP) goal is fast approaching. Most of the Northeast region closes in on the final stages of the document that you, your colleagues, our entire industry, and stakeholders of all types will benefit from. Please take the opportunity to thank your BMP committee for volunteering their time to develop such a great resource.

Many of the successful concepts and practices used to build your document came from ideas the committee in New York developed. Superintendents and scientists in NY began their BMP initiative in 2012. The committee was led by a dynamic individual, Ken Benoit, CGCS, and then superintendent at Glen Arbor CC, would be named the first Executive Director of the organization tasked with overseeing the state BMPs, The New York Golf Course Foundation (NYGCF). Not only was Benoit's leadership critical to the success of the New York Golf BMP, his passion for the concept has gone miles, literally, since then.



Ken Benoit, CGCS, will blend two of his interests – cycling and golf course environmental stewardship – on his cross-country Connect to Protect Tour beginning Aug. 14. Photos courtesy of Ken Benoit

On August 14th, Benoit began a cross-country bicycle trek from Connecticut to Oregon to promote facility BMPs through his "Connect to Protect Tour." An avid and accomplished cyclist, Benoit will be stopping at golf courses along his route to highlight current BMP practices in place and posting blogs and videos on his company website, Eco Turf Consulting. Benoit is also posting updates via his twitter feed. It is a fascinating follow with environmental information you and your facility could benefit from too! Here is where you can find Benoit's Connect to Protect Tour information to follow along during, or learn from even after his journey:

Website: ecoturfconsulting.com/connect-to-protect-tour/

Twitter: @kenbenoit1

GCM wrote a more in depth article about Benoit's unique adventure which can be found here:
www.gcmonline.com/latest-stories/ken-benoit-golf-course-bmps.

Hopefully, you enjoy the blogs and videos of Benoit's trip as much as I do. I am equally optimistic that BMP resources Benoit uncovers and shares from facilities across the country will benefit you and your environmental efforts! Be sure to connect with the Connect to Protect Tour in any way you can!

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

Kevin Doyle, GCSAA Field Staff

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HVGCSA October Meeting & Worthington Cup



The Golf Club at Mansion Ridge

1292 Orange Turnpike, Monroe, NY 10950

Monday, October 5, 2020

Host : Rob Capecelatro, GCS

\$115

Price Includes:

18-Holes, Cart

Lunch/Dinner/Open Bar

Beverage cart will be available "CASH"

To Register: Click [HERE](#)

Registration: 11:30

Box Lunch

Golf Shotgun: 12:30

BBQ Dinner: 5:00

Open Bar: 1 Hour (beer & wine)



Rob Capecelatro & GC at Mansion Ridge.....cont'd

After graduating, Rob began his career as an assistant working for Jeff Scott at Tamarack CC in Greenwich, CT. "Jeff was an amazing teacher. He was always tweaking his programs, never satisfied with the status quo, always trying to improve the quality of turf and conditions on the course", Rob remembered.

Two years into his stint at Tamarack, Rob saw a job notice for an assistant's position at the Stanwich Club. "I interviewed and got the job. Jeff understood, it was a great opportunity. I spent five years working for Scott Niven. Personality-wise Scott was more laid back than Jeff. But he provided those perfect conditions at Stanwich, just like Jeff at Tamarack. I owe both of these guys for providing me with a great education in providing top conditions and managing a golf course".

In March of 2018 Mansion Ridge hired Rob and the rest is history. "Members and golfers are liking what they're seeing at Mansion Ridge", says Rob, "We make it work. It's been challenging staffing the job. In the summer, I have 12-13 guys on the crew. Right now, there's six including my assistant. But, we end up making it work with part timers, college and high school kids. They let us know what hours they can work and we plug 'em in".

Rob married his sweetheart Rebecca in 2019. They live in Ridgewood, NJ. Rob met Rebecca at Stanwich club. She was an intern in the clubhouse.

We hope to see all you at Mansion Ridge on the 5th of October. This very well could be the last meeting of the year so don't miss it.

Kevin Collins





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The Links at Union Vale Meeting.....Recap

A packed field enjoyed awesome weather for a great meeting at The Links at Union Vale. Chris Strehl, assistant Rob Stewart and company (not that many!!) had the place in awesome shape for the weary HV members who came out. Just an awesome day for everyone to get away and enjoy some time with friends and colleagues and get the ball in the air in a year where everybody else is playing golf but Superintendents!!

Thanks must be given to the entire team at The Links – GM Ron Caeners, Pro Pat Sullivan, Chef Mark Scarezi and Hostess Dani Plastini – for not only a great day of fun, but their exceptional example of how to run a golf outing during the Covid-19 age.

Results:

1st place Four Man Scramble: Team Links at Union Vale (Home Team) NET 62!! Captain Chris “Scramble” Strehl, Gio Calabro, Lloyd Silver & Rob Stewart

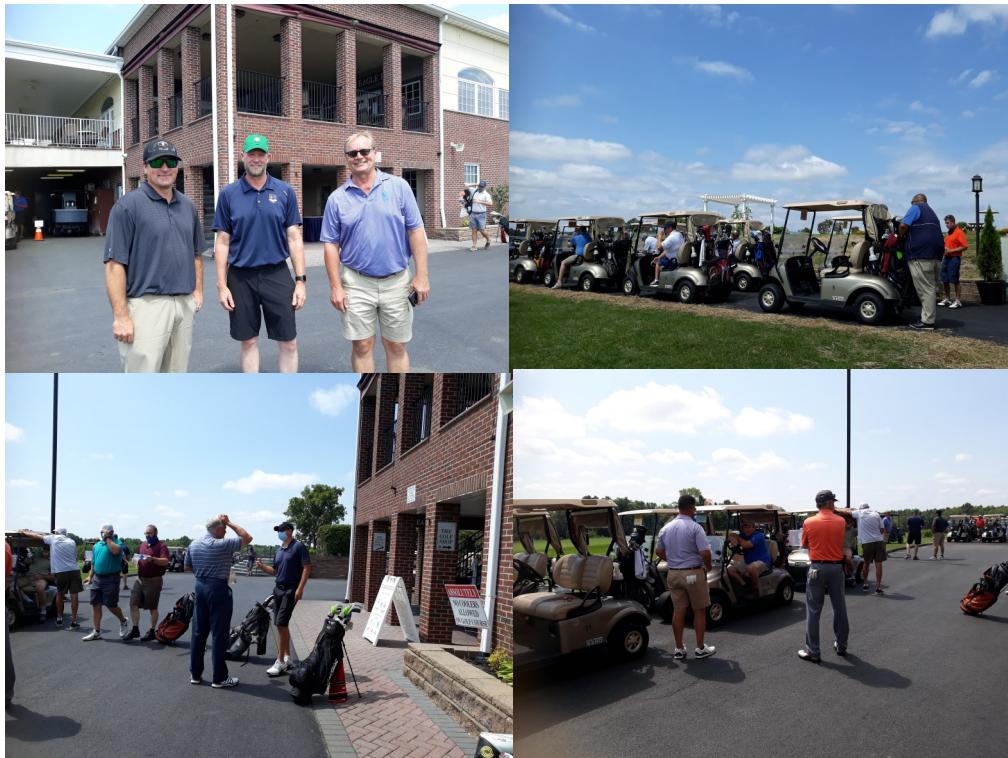
Closest to the Pin: Hole # 10 - Dave Lippman – 3’ 8”

Longest Drive: Hole # 17 - Rob Stewart

Don't forget to join us on October 5th at the Golf Club at Mansion Ridge hosted by Superintendent, Rob Capcelatro. Mansion Ridge is a great layout and it's been too long since the HVGCSA has been there.

See everyone then!!!

Dave Lippman
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