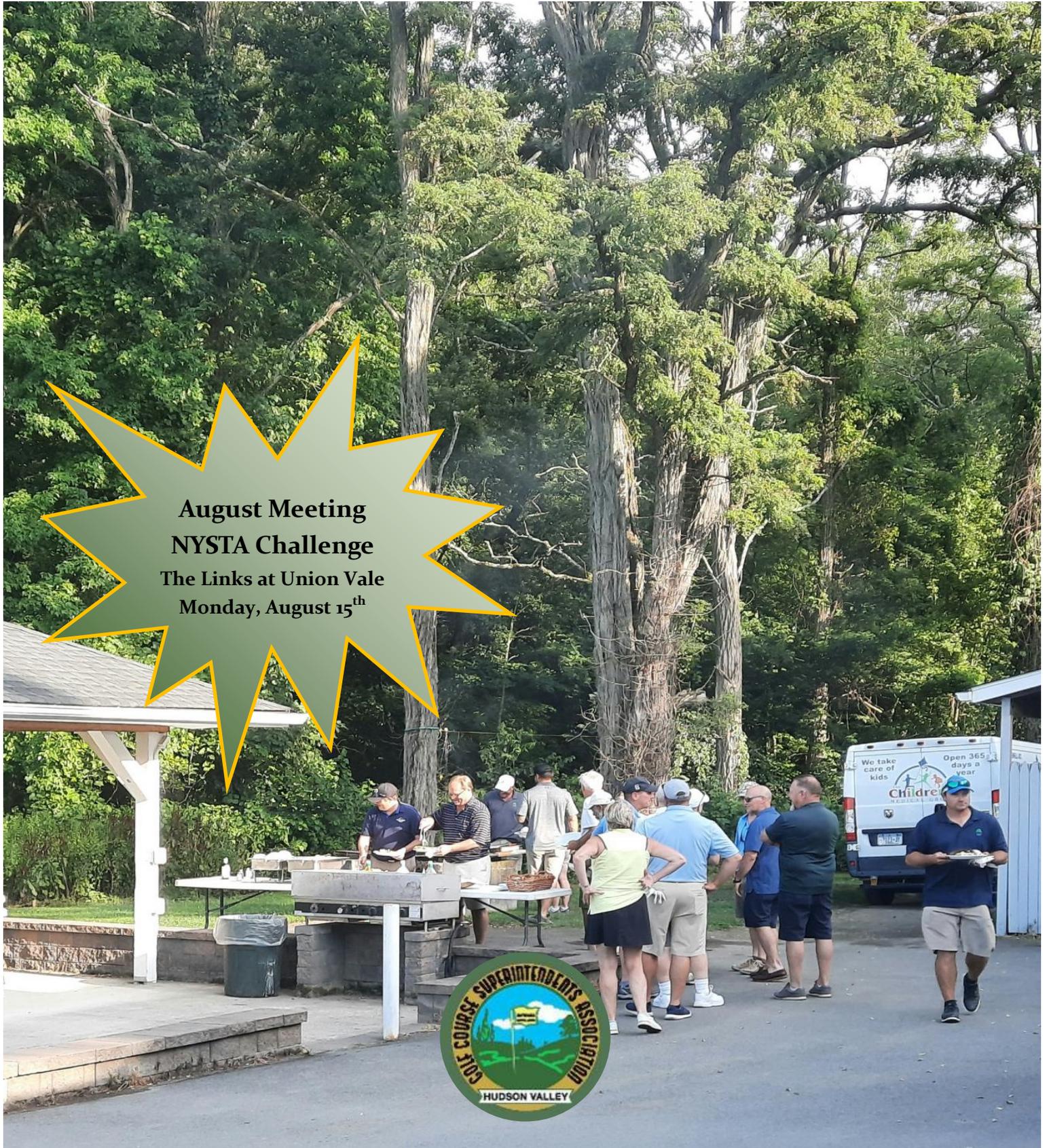


# FOREGROUND

VOL. 59 NO. 4 Published by Hudson Valley Golf Course Superintendents Association July 2022

**August Meeting  
NYSTA Challenge  
The Links at Union Vale  
Monday, August 15<sup>th</sup>**



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*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



Another month has passed by, it seems the rinse and repeat season we have had makes the days all blend and before we knew it, it's August. Before we know it, we will be aerifying and preparing to winterize our properties. Very few of us have received rain over the last 7 weeks, some got little relief while others got nothing. This season has certainly put a strain on every superintendent. But one thing is certain, you can call a fellow Hudson Valley member and they will lend a hand. Even if it's to have a drink and solve issues.

It was great seeing so many people at Dogwood Knolls for the 9 & Dine. Jim Biordi, big thanks for a fun evening (it even rained) and one of the best steak dinners East of the Hudson River.... We had a tight competition with a match of cards and we also handed out our scholarship winners, congratulations to Emma Halderman, Jennifer Krok, Jessica Krok & Presley Gurney.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the Links at Union Vale for the NYSTA challenge August 15<sup>th</sup>. I know Chris Strehl will have the course in great shape and it will be an all around fun day.

Mark your calendars for January 19<sup>th</sup>, we will be hosting a winter seminar this year. It will be held at Resorts Casino in Monticello. I know the committee is working hard to set up a great day with great speakers.

Keep the push going forward, the end is closer than it seems.

All the best,  
Tim

## 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 date: 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
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# LOCHMOR MEETING.....recap

What a wonderful day it was in the Catskills. Kudos to Pat McNamara and his staff. The course was in awesome shape and the layout was very challenging. Many thanks also to the golf and food staff. Lochmor went above and beyond to accommodate us. The beverages were available and flowing all day and the food was great. A side note, the Hudson Valley has not seen shrimp cocktail that large since the Cup at Brae Burn many...many years ago. It certainly was a nice surprise.

Solid play was had by many and that didn't include myself. The low gross was shot by Joe Meyer from Villa Roma with a 75. Very impressive score, well done Sir! It seems Dave Lippman has some strong competition this season. Second place was had by Blake Halderman of Brae Burn with a 77. Low Net was won by John Wright with a score of 72. There were no closet to the pin or long drive prizes for the day. Although, I will claim the long drive by vehicle with a 2+ hour trek home from the course.

Cheers  
Matt T



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# LOCHMOR GOLF COURSE - JUNE MEETING





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*Jim (center) with family and friends at the Nine & Dine*

## **Biordi and Dogwood Knolls**

Jim Biordi welcomed the HVGCSA to Dogwood Knolls for the association's annual summer Nine & Dine on July 22nd. Afterwards there was food, drink, and prizes at McShane's Pub, the great watering hole that Jim built when he purchased the club.

### **About Dogwood Knolls:**

If you google or look for information on Dogwood Knolls you won't find much. In one of the publications I rely on for course histories it knew the course was there but had no idea who built it or when it opened. But Jim knew.

"Dogwood Knolls was built in the early 1930's. The architect and builder was a farmer. His name was Kern Nichols," Jim reported, "It's a good layout and a regulation 9-hole golf course. Over the years, after Kern, there were a few more owners. It was up for sale and I decided to buy it in April of 2000." Mystery solved.

In 2003, Jim built McShane's Pub on the property which is a great place to hang out. The course has leagues Monday through Thursday and Jim also personally runs the Sunday morning league. And after league play is over, there's McShane's.

Jim is the golf course superintendent and has a crew of three to take care of the course. Since taking over Dogwood, the course conditions and the golf experience has improved dramatically. And, there's always McShane's Pub to hang out at after your round.

The course plays 3105 yards from the back tees. The layout climbs upward through the first 4 holes and then back down towards the clubhouse on last 5 holes on the way in. It's a fun tract.

### **About Jim Biordi:**

"I was born in Tarrytown and grew up in Montrose," Jim reminisced, "My dad Sam worked his entire life for the railroad. First it was NY Central and later Metro North. My mom Ann was a stay-at-home mom. I graduated from Hendrick Hudson HS in 1977. I obtained an associate's degree at Westchester Community College in mechanical engineering. I worked in a machine shop for about 9 years and worked at the GM plant in Tarrytown for 15 years until I took a buy-out."

After General Motors, Jim started his own contracting business remodeling homes. That lasted around 10 years before the opportunity to buy Dogwood Knolls presented itself. Jim has never regretted his decision.

"It's a lot of hours but I love what I do," Jim explained, "You meet a lot of good people in this business."

I asked Jim what was it like to take care of a golf course without having a background in turf when he started.

"I got a lot of help from the industry guys," Jim laughed, "the first sales guy to show up was Greg Moran and he's still showing up. Bob Steinman and Chris Kemble also helped me out. It was like having coaches. They were very loyal to me and I'm very loyal to them for all the help they have given me over the years."

On a personal note, Jim lives with his better half, Anne, in Fishkill, NY. They have been married for 39 years and have two daughters, Catherine and Ally. And one grandson.

***By: Kevin Collins***

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# Hudson Valley News of Interest:

By: Kevin Collins



\*Osiris Superintendent Mike Aube took this wonderful picture of his irrigation pond aerator's last death rattle before it crapped out. The weak stream that the fountain exhibited in its final moments is an apt metaphor for bitter age 50-plus men as they stand in their bathrooms at 3am thinking "I have no stream" while cursing their large and swollen prostate glands.



\*Retired PJ Rotella Superintendent Cal Fowx, seen here holding hands and commiserating with his dog Fluffy, had been a little down lately and didn't want to leave the house. His feet and ankles were recently diagnosed as having a combination of both alopecia (hair loss) and vitiligo (loss of skin color). Cal's wife Nancy remedied the situation by buying Cal some "old school" pull-up basketball socks. Cal's back in the saddle again and out living his best life and loves how the new socks look with his golf shoes.



\*Congratulations to Patriot Hills Superintendent Evan Weymouth and his lovely wife Sally on the purchase of their first house. After the closing, Evan and Sally discovered a family of Irish Travelers squatting in their new residence. Evan eventually was able to negotiate a deal with the family to vacate the house. After he paid them to fix the leaky roof and seal the driveway, they left and headed back to their home in Tennessee.



\*HVGCSA President Tim Walker ran into actor Lillo Brancato at his favorite Bronxville dive bar. Brancato, famous for his roles as Calogero in "A Bronx Tale" and Matthew Bevilacqua in "The Sopranos", told Tim that he would pop a cap in his ass if Tim didn't buy him a drink. Tim obliged and, when Lillo was distracted, escaped out the bathroom window with his fiancé Patty to avert any bloodshed.



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# BOARD OF DIRECTORS CORNER

*(Rain) water is better!*

As of July 16<sup>th</sup> various parts of the Hudson Valley had gone a total of 31 days without significant rainfall. After a colder than normal May and June, most superintendents were finally recovering from a particularly devastating winter that we hadn't see in more than a few years. Early June, we were all celebrating fall like weather with nighttime temperatures still in the low 50's; with little idea of the turn mother nature was going to take over the next month.

June 16<sup>th</sup> was the last significant rain we would have for a total of 31 days in our case here at Paramount. Some in the Hudson Valley were a bit luckier catching the wrath of a pop-up thunderstorm or two, but still a tremendously hot and dry 31 days for all. For those who pay for water, I can only imagine how expensive of a month it must have been; and for those of us with well water and holding ponds, they can't refill fast enough for us to continue with the requisite output it takes to battle the heat and drought.

Even with an incredible irrigation system, over time, the irrigation water becomes less and less effective. No matter how good the quality of water you are putting out through the system, there will always be

some level of bicarbonate build up. We spray acid and wetting agents to help minimize the effects of bicarbonate build up and localized dry spots but that also cost significant money and requires significant labor.

Most of what we try to accomplish with our irrigation water is to hold us over until the next rain event because rainwater is just significantly more effective in wetting the soils do to its natural acidity.

So now that we have finally had a break in what was a stressful 31 days of draught, lets just hope for some cooler nighttime temps so that we can begin recovering! Stay strong; days are getting shorter and grass is getting happier.

***Matt Kerens***  
***Paramount CC***



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# 2022 Scholarship Recipients

Congratulations to our 2022 recipients on receiving the Ernie Steinhofers Legacy scholarship award. In addition to maintaining excellent GPAs, these students are all very involved in their communities and in numerous extracurricular activities. The Scholarship Committee and board are very pleased to recognize these deserving applicants with scholarship awards.



## Jessica Krok

**Member:** Rick Krok, Storr Tractor

**College:** Weber State University, Ogden UT

**Major:** Communications



## Jennifer Krok

**Member:** Rick Krok, Storr Tractor

**College:** University of Delaware

**Major:** Sports Health



## Emma Halderman

**Member:** Blake Halderman, Brae Burn CC

**College:** University of South Carolina

**Major:** Hospitality Management



## Presley Gurney

**Member:** Guy Gurney, Storr Tractor

**College:** University of Connecticut

**Major:** Education

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# Upcoming Meetings

August 15<sup>th</sup>

Links @ Union Vale  
NYSTA Challenge

September 22<sup>nd</sup>

Villa Roma  
(Met Team Qualifier)

October 3<sup>rd</sup>

Mahopac Golf Club  
(Met Team Qualifier)

October 17<sup>th</sup>

Met Team Championship  
Lehigh Country Club  
Allentown, PA

November 19<sup>th</sup>

Tailgate Party at West Point  
w/MetGCSA

December TBD

Year End Social Event  
Billy Joe's Ribworks

# HVGCSA August Meeting



When: Monday, August 15, 2022

Where: The Links at Union Vale  
153 North Parliman Road  
Lagrangeville, NY 12540



Times: **10:30** Registration

**11:00 - 12:15** Lunch

**12:30** Shotgun Start - 4-Man Handicap Scramble

*Spikeless shoes required - Proper golf attire*

**5:00 - 6:00** Buffet Dinner, Prizes & Raffle Drawings

Tournament Fee: \$175 per person / \$55 Dinner Only

### Includes:

- Greens Fee • Cart Fee
- Driving Range • Lunch
- Buffet Dinner • Soda & Beer on the Course

Raffle: Raffle donations are greatly appreciated. Please indicate on your registration form what you wish to donate for the raffle. Suggested items are golf gift certificates, golf balls, hats, gift cards, or themed gift baskets. Raffle tickets will be sold at registration and drawn during the tournament.



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# New York Golf Course Foundation Makes Great Strides

by Ken Benoit, CGCS

Executive Director, New York Golf Course Foundation

First, I'd like to start by introducing the new members of the New York Golf Course Foundation's (NYGCF) Board of Directors: Steve Kurta (New York Golf Course Superintendents Association), Evan Weymouth (Hudson Valley Golf Course Superintendents Association), Tim Benedict (Long Island Golf Course Superintendents Association), and Jesse Shannon (Metropolitan Golf Course Superintendents Association). On behalf of the foundation board, I'd like to say welcome and thank you for volunteering your valuable time to our superintendent-operated foundation.

I would also like to take a minute to remind everyone that Golf BMPs are extremely useful in helping achieve your agronomic goals in a way that protects water resources. Whether you are treating for ABW, putting together a nutrient management plan, or trying to determine what chemical is the most effective on a pest while having the least impact on the environment (Environmental Impact Quotient, i.e., EIQ), there is no doubt that the New York State Golf Course BMPs are there to guide you in establishing a reasonable, environmentally sound solution.

The Pollinator BMP has been a critical addition to the Golf BMPs. As one of the TESH grant tasks, we initiated a honeybee evaluation study designed to explore the impact golf has on the honeybee. The results indicate that there are significant benefits drawn from the relationship with very little risk to the honeybee. You can read more about the evaluation study on our website.

The foundation has also started forming its strategic plan for the next five years. This plan is ever evolving, but the basic drivers will remain the same: education, research, and outreach.

## Brimming With Useful Content

The even better news is that the NYGCF's new-and-improved website and YouTube channel are chockful of useful content created with the backing of the Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship Fund (TESF). Carl Schimenti and Frank Rossi, for instance, completed two publications for the TESH, *Using Predictive Models for Controlling Dollar Spot* and *Converting Fairways to Bentgrass*. These publications are available in print form and will be handed out at specified association meetings. A downloadable form will also be available on our website later this year, [nysgolfbmp.cals.cornell.edu](http://nysgolfbmp.cals.cornell.edu).

Among the new videos posted on the New York Golf Course Foundation's YouTube channel are *How to Develop a Nutrient*

*Management Plan*, created by Carl Schimenti, and *How to Develop a Surface Water Quality Testing Program*, created by yours truly. Both 10-minute videos are full of helpful information.

## Golf Facility BMPs Brought to Life

Also new to the YouTube channel is video content from interviews I recorded last summer while riding my bike across the State of New York as a part of my Connect to Protect, New York Tour. In these interview-based videos, you will listen to your peers from around the State of New York sharing their perspectives on the value of facility adoption of BMPs and why BMPs are critical to the future success of our industry.

They bring the BMPs to life by providing specific examples of best management practices these superintendents have incorporated into their own management programs. These examples range from simple and inexpensive to complex, relating, for instance, to constructing a new maintenance facility. A big thank you to all these guys for taking the time to provide their perspective and encouragement to all of us.

We completed the "How to" series of videos with a detailed description of the process for using the GCSAA's online tool to download the facility BMP template, which is the first step in creating a BMP document for your own facility.

The 2022/23 TESH grant we received is designed to further assist superintendents in creating their facility BMP document. This winter, for instance, the NYGCF will conduct a series of one-day workshops around the State of New York, which will provide superintendents with the opportunity to easily create a version of their BMP document. Look for more information regarding this project later this fall.

In addition to the workshops, we will help one superintendent from each region of New York create their own BMP document. We hope that by demonstrating how simple it is to complete a basic BMP document and then pointing to the valuable assistance the document can provide in agronomic decision making, more superintendents will be motivated to complete their own BMP document.

## Keeping Current

Information moves fast, and what was once current becomes outdated in a flash. With that in mind, look for us to continually update our content and stay in front of the demands of our everchanging environment. Nonetheless, through every NYGCF initiative, our mission will remain the same: To protect and preserve New York State water resources and sustain and enhance open space using current scientific advances in golf turfgrass management.

Here's to a great rest of the 2022 season, and remember to do your part in protecting our state's natural resources.



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