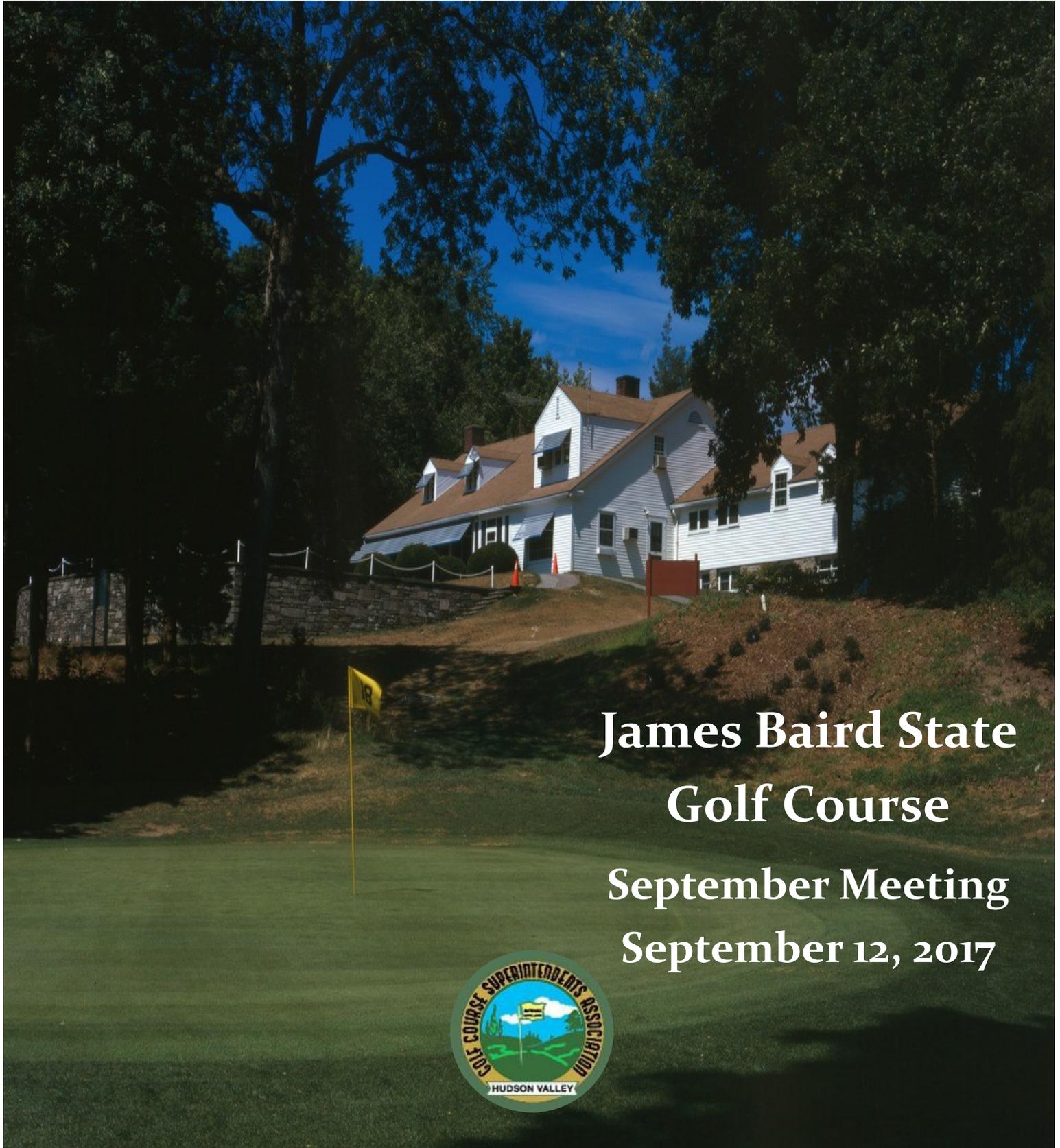


FOREGROUND

VOL. 54 NO. 5 Published by Hudson Valley Golf Course Superintendents Association September, 2017



James Baird State Golf Course

September Meeting
September 12, 2017



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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



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President's Message

Serving the Association



The end of the season is imminently closing in on us as the daylight hours diminish. This is the time of year we, as a board, start looking forward to the following year, wheth-

er that be planning meeting sites, forming ideas of the next social event, how to attract and sustain members, or to inquire about interest into serving on the board.

Currently, the board consists of ten people working as a team to help better the association. Included in that group of ten is our Executive Secretary, Susan O'Dowd, who is the person behind the scenes that gets all the day-to-day work completed. It is the other nine guys on the board that direct Susan and the association in a way to better provide for the HVGCSA.

We are all working superintendents here in the Hudson Valley. That being said, each one of us can only afford a certain amount of time to volunteer to board-driven duties. Family and our careers take precedence, but in my opinion there is no better satisfaction than when we, as a board, get together and strive for something positive to improve the association. A great majority of the time needed for these tasks can be accomplished in the "off-season."

As stated earlier, there are nine guys on the board

and each of us has one or two particular areas we take care of. Setting up monthly meetings, reviewing scholarships, being the GCSAA liaison, working with the affiliates on sponsorship, aiding in the newsletter publications, and making sure our members are satisfied and get what they need are just a few of the areas of concern we handle on the board level. The time I've personally been on the board has been invaluable. The relationships I've made with these guys are the best and most meaningful ones I have in the industry!

At the conclusion of this season, we will be losing a few long-time board members: Guy Gurney (about 8 years), Chris Strehl (about 12 years), and Steve Whipple (about 12 years). Chris and Steve actually ran through the board positions, became President and then wrapped around for another couple years of service. I'd like to thank them all for their volunteered time and service to this great association. Now it's time for another hungry group of folks to step in and continue the great work we have recently accomplished. Please, if you have any interest in serving on the HVGCSA Board of Governors, contact me or Steve Whipple for information.....You will not regret it, I guarantee it!

Your President, Dan



HVGCSA Mission Statement: *The Hudson Valley Golf Course Superintendents Association exists to inform, educate and serve members within the Hudson Valley and surrounding areas.*



HVGCSA September Meeting

James Baird State Park GC

Host: Kevin O'Brien

By: Kevin Collins

The HVGCSA's September meeting will be held at James Baird State Park Golf Course on Tuesday, September 12th. Our host is Kevin O'Brien.

What a great place to tee it up, James Baird State Park Golf Course. I started playing golf at Baird almost 40 years ago. Those were the days when there was no reservation system. You had to go to the course at 3am and wait in line at the starter's booth to get your tee time. The starter would roll in at about 5:30am. Then you rushed over to the cart barn. Of course, the guy who took care of the carts wasn't around. He was still passed out from a night of heavy boozing. We'd throw rocks at his window (he lived right next to the cart barn) and he'd finally stumble out of his house, Lord Calvert himself!!

The golf course was designed by Robert Trent Jones, Sr. and built by the Civilian Conservation Corps back in the 1940s. Baird is a fun course to play and has great bones. They do about 30,000 rounds a year there, which is impressive in the current golf economy.



Our host superintendent, Kevin O'Brien, has been at Baird since June of 2004. Faced with a limited budget, Kevin's immediate goal was to improve the course conditions. So instead of going project crazy, Kevin went to work on the thatch that had built up on the greens, removed trees, over-seeded fairways, gave the

course some great definition by letting the rough grow, and made sure the layout was impeccably maintained. Being a NYS park it's tough to get money for capital projects. But, during Kevin's tenure at the club, a new irrigation system was installed in 2014 replacing the

original, which had been in the ground since the 1950's. In addition, new greens were built on holes 4, 17, & 18. New tees were built on a number of holes along with a new practice putting green and a new 11,000 square foot nursery green.

Kevin has thoroughly enjoyed his time at Baird. Hailing from Utica, NY and having grown up on a farm, Dutchess County reminds Kevin of home. Our host graduated from SUNY Cobleskill in 2003, and spent a year working with Craig Currier at Bethpage which left him well prepared for his current assignment.

There are many interesting, fun, and challenging holes on this 6,600 yard layout. Number 3 is a tricky 112-yard island green par 3. The tee shot is to a small target from an elevated tee with little room for error. Number 4 is a long difficult 443-yard par 4 with a well bunkered green awaiting your approach shot.

The most terrifying hole, hands down, has to be the par 5, 13th. This 560-yard monster has a crowned fairway that sends about every decent tee shot into the woods due to the severe slope on both sides of the crown. Par is an excellent score on this hole.

The O'Brien family lives in a house on the course. Kevin and his wife Patty have a young brood which includes Aiden 10, Kayleigh 7, and the newest addition Brody, 8 months. Kevin and Patty get absolutely no rest with the baby but are both hanging in there.

My best advice to you is to show up for the HVGCSA September meeting at Baird. I know you'll have a blast. Don't forget, it's okay to leave your course every once in a while to enjoy yourself. The association deserves your attendance.





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Hudson Valley News of Interest:

By: Kevin Collins

In addition to taking care of the golf course, Kevin O'Brien is also the park manager at Baird, so he's responsible for everything that goes on there. The park has a lot of acreage and picnic areas and the like. Kevin has seen his share of interesting behavior in the park over the years. Since the park is accessible from the Taconic State Parkway, many motorists mistake Baird for a rest stop. And many guys who are looking for love in all the wrong places (with other guys) end up in the park. Kevin has come to grips with the bromances he has stumbled upon during his time at Baird. Kevin reports, "I hear a lot of howling coming out of those picnic areas at night and it's not coyotes!!"

HVGCSA Executive Secretary Susan O'Dowd is in legal trouble again. After barely escaping an indictment on the alleged gambling and sheep fighting operation at her family farm in Galway, Susan is now under investigation for printing and selling counterfeit Irish Sweepstakes tickets. The pending indictment alleges that Susan and her Irish gypsy partner, Malachy Seamus McManus, willingly defrauded unsuspecting patrons of a local pub they were working out of in Galway called the "Drunken Piker Inn." Stay tuned!!

Our last meeting, the "NYSTA Challenge" at the Links at Union Vale, was well attended and very successful. It was especially heartwarming and emotional to have Elissa and Tim Steinhofner at the meeting to hand out the first "Ernie Steinhofner Scholarship" at dinner. We miss you Ernie.

Speaking of the "NYSTA Challenge" I was amazed at how much alcohol was consumed at the event. I've never been slurred at that much in my entire life. Well, except for Collins family functions.

I'm kind of sad that the caterer we had last year at the "Nine & Dine" at James Baird has been replaced. The last guy had the hottest wing sauce I've ever consumed. I remember letting loose with a little gas and melted the seat cushion on my bar stool.



Ha! Ha! Ha!

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How Do We Work, Why Do We Work?



How are we earning our livelihoods? Are we trading time for money or are we utilizing our talents to ensure that our expertise earns our salary? When you are trading time for money, your income will always be limited. There are only a finite number

of hours you can work. Hopefully only 8 hours a day. So you can work longer, harder, and give more to your organization which will often leave you hoping for the recognition of a raise or promotion. Or are you utilizing your professional skill set to ensure that you are organized and prepared to provide not only a high quality product for your employers, but also providing the highest quality of life for you and your family.

We have to change our mindsets. Who made up the rules that to make X you have to work Y number of hours? Your boss. Think: are you trading your expertise for money or are you trading your time? What value can you offer others and how can you deliver for them? What assets, skills, knowledge, or ideas do you have that other people will benefit from? Make sure you recognize your strengths and competencies. Whatever you choose to do, don't hold back. Nothing is ever easy. Failure might be part of your plan and you will learn from it.

What is Real Wealth?

The definition of real wealth will be different for all of us. Real wealth is achieving the ability to use your time pursuing your passions and not the endless struggle to acquire financial stability. Our end goals will all be different, a crew member living paycheck to paycheck may not be able to allocate

finances to a long term plan, but if they know they have more to offer, or you have more to offer, try looking inward and you may be surprised by what you find. We have been trained to assign responsibility for our financial wellbeing to well-paid experts. Their real job is to collect assets and take a fee off those assets, they are often not looking after you and your family's best interests. Your money will be actively traded and/or put into reduced fee and passive investments. All of which you can do on your own, if you choose. These "advisors" who know nothing more than you, roll the dice and tell you there are going to be some good days and bad. But don't you worry, you still have 30 years to trade all of your time for money. This methodology, while sound, only works if the market continues to melt upward. This can perhaps be part of your long-term life plan but not the whole plan.

Understanding your motivations and your point of "Real Wealth" are integral keys to your long term goals. Be an active part of your success, take stock of yourself and your values, work smarter not harder, and take responsibility of your future plans.

*Grover Alexander
Hudson Hills GC*





“THE BIG TICKET”

GIS Giveaway

Courtesy of HVGCSA



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, 2017](#)

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

DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 30th



Mark your calendars and join Canadian GSA and GCSAA superintendents for the Can Am Cup, October 23 & 24, 2017. This two-day golf and educational event will be held at two of America's premier clubs – Baltusrol Golf Club and Canoe Brook Golf Club.

Educational opportunities will include a facility tour of Baltusrol Golf Club hosted by Mark Kuhns, CGCS and informational session featuring renowned golf course architects Rees Jones and Douglas Carrick. Attendees will receive GCSAA education points or Canadian CECs.

Take advantage of international networking during receptions and dinner each evening, the opportunity to visit New York City and receive your respective countries' polo shirts for both days of competition.

Limited number of registrations available, so sign up today!

[Register now for the Can Am Cup](#)

SAVE THE DATES

October Meeting

Millbrook Golf & Tennis
Tuesday, October 10th

Met Team Championship

Westchester Country Club
Monday, October 16th

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NINE & DINE @ Dogwood Knolls

Dogwood Knolls Golf Course welcomed the HVGCSA on Friday July 28 for the 2nd Annual Nine and Dine event. Jim Biordi and staff rolled out the red carpet (on a Friday night, no less) with great golf and an awesome summer steak BBQ.

The golf course was in great shape for the laid-back 9 holes on a fantastic sunny afternoon. On course “beverages” flowed as smoothly as the laughs and fun of the participants.

A feast of grilled steak and corn on the cob capped off a relaxing Friday afternoon for the hard-working men and women of the HVGCSA and their friends and families.



The highlight after dinner for sure was our Sponsor for the day, Bobby Steinmen of Synergy Turf, pulling out his own personal arsenal of fireworks. Working in a fury, he put on a tremendous display of firepower which thrilled all in attendance and anyone in a 5-mile radius!!

Great thanks must go to Jim Biordi and his staff for their

great hospitality and thanks to all who came out to enjoy the afternnon!

SKILL PRIZES:

CLOSEST TO THE PIN – HOLE #2 PHIL ANGELONE, BEEKMAN CC

CLOSEST TO THE PIN – HOLE #8 WILL MORIARTY, LAZY SWAN GC

Recognition was also paid to HV golf course Legend Red Hewitt. The Mechanic at McCann GC was honored for his upcoming retirement after a full career at Hudson Valley golf courses. He was presented by HVGCSA President Dan Wilber a gift that all retired men need: A BATHROOM TOILET PUTTING GREEN!

Stay sharp, Red, and CONGRATS on your retirement!



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Last Meeting Recap...The Links

Our last get together was the annual NYSTA Steve Smith Memorial Challenge held once again at The Links at Unionvale GC- Chris Strehl, host Superintendent. Wonderful weather and superb conditions all on tap for the 80-plus who came out to support NYSTA to help fund their turf research programs and green industry legislative efforts. Executive Director, Beth Seme along with fellow NYSTA board members Steve Whipple, Greg Chorvas, Mike Maffei, were all on hand taking part in the day's festivities. Thanks to Chris, assistant Mike and staff for all their hard work in preparing the course. Love all that Bentgrass!



Golf Awards:

First Place- Team Northeast- Captain Bernie Jorgenson, Josh Yeardon, Tom Thompson, and Mike Miranda

Second Place - Team Stephen Kay with help from Rick Krok, Dave Moffett, and Adam Zweig

Third Place - Team Plant Food- Captain Dick Neufeld, Corey Risedorph, Jason Dogewicz, and Stephen Hicks

Closest to Pin - Travis Banks

Longest Drive - Adam Zweig

Shot of the Day - Matt Topazio- holing out a sand wedge from 20 yards.

Dinner was great and a very cool presentation of the 1st annual **Ernie Steinhofers Legacy Scholarship**. Ernie's son Tim and daughter Ellysa were on hand to make the presentation to **Logan Pierpoint**, who will be attending Rowan College this fall. Logan's parents, George IV and Jen along with grandparents George III and Ineke, were on hand to accept the award. It was a very emotional moment for all and a very fitting way to honor and remember our pal Ernie.

Thanks to Steve Whipple for his emcee duties. Thanks to George Wade and Kevin Collins for their time at the signup table. Thanks to our Gold Sponsors - Synergy Turf and Metro Turf, Silver Sponsors Red Wing Industries, RISE, and Tru Green, and Bronze Sponsors Plant Food Company and HVGCSA. Thank you to all that sponsored tee signs and donated raffle prizes. Many thanks to the staff at the Links, the beverage gals, food services, and pro shop. Great Job!



Next Meeting- Kevin O'Brien's James Baird Golf Course. Free Beer Tomorrow!

Bill Luthin



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Kevin Doyle...GCSAA

A recent blog I wrote featured a short description of several allied organizations using the benefits of golf to make our industry better for those of us in it and those outside of golf. It was lengthy, but I hope informative. If you'd like to check it out, you can find my blog here: <http://gcsaa-northeast.blogspot.com/>. This issue, I'd like to offer a couple of summer snippets regarding topics that are touched on fairly frequently.

In the early spring issue, I wrote about the impact of using "thank you" as a manager of people. I heard feedback from many members about the message portrayed in the article. What I did not touch on was hearing that same phrase from folks above us, those we answer to, and ultimately, our end users, the golfers. I have volunteered at many events hosted by the USGA, PGA, and LPGA, and as I write this portion of the article from the U.S. Women's Open, I don't recall ever having a professional golfer visit the maintenance staff to offer thanks for the hard work, until now. The event management company partnering with the USGA for the event arrived on Monday afternoon with a "special guest," LPGA golfer Belen Mozo. Mozo was very appreciative of the efforts by the staff and lauded



the conditions of the course. It felt very rewarding. Whether it is coming from a golfer playing at the highest level, board member, or avid daily fee golfer, be sure to share those positive comments you hear with your staff. It will be rewarding for them to hear and may have motivating factors too!

There are several action alerts up at GCSAA.org of which you should take note. Just taking two minutes to fill in your personal information will allow the website to populate a message, and with your approval, send it directly to your legislator. Don't think it will make a difference? I fill them out regularly and was contacted by my New Hampshire State Senator's office regarding WOTUS simply because of the action alert! Let your legislator know how our profession feels about pending legislation. Visit the action alert page [here](#).

We all have challenges facing us daily. My travels as your field staff representative have exposed me to some unique situations, and resilient superintendents. I was told by a superintendent that he informed his staff late August means "grumpy Eric" has arrived. Rightfully so, the most stressful time of the year is coming to a close, but please keep in mind the challenges your staff face as well. Remember, they are an extension of you. If you feel the stress, they will too. Labor Day, shorter days, cooler nights and agronomic practices season are within sight. If you persevere, they will as well!

GCSAA/Golf Digest Environmental Leaders in Golf Awards

Applications are now being received for the ELGA! 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. For more information on how you can be considered for the stewardship at your facility, please visit: <https://www.gcsaa.org/about-gcsaa/awards/environmental-leaders-in-golf-awards>

Melrose Leadership Academy

The Melrose Leadership Academy supports the professional development of GCSAA member superintendents by providing individuals the opportunity to attend the Golf Industry Show. The program is set provides up to 20 scholarships every year. Applications for the 2018 Academy are due by Sept. 15, 2017.

The academy is open to applicants who meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Must be a current GCSAA Class A or Class B member and GCSAA Chapter member in good standing.
- Must be a Class A or Class B member for five or more years.
- Class A or Class B members working for current members of the board of directors or the board of trustees, and children of GCSAA staff members shall not be eligible for the Melrose Leadership Academy.
- Past recipients are not eligible.

Attendees of the Golf Industry Show in the last five years are not eligible to apply.

To learn more, or if you qualify and want to apply, follow: <http://www.eifg.org/education/melrose-leadership-academy/>

Upcoming FREE webcasts:

Aug. 29 [Ajustes en el manejo del césped según la calidad del agua de riego](#) Xavier Millet

Sept. 12 [First Green & Equipment Managers: Growing the Game](#) – *equipment management series* Karen Armstead, Ph.D. and Cathy Relyea

Oct. 18 [Nuts and Bolts of Golf Course Sprayers](#) – *equipment management series* Zane Raudenbush, Ph.D.

Oct. 19 [Under Construction Episode 1: Greens & Tees](#) Jan Bel Jan, Rob Kloska, Jason Zimmerman, CGCS

Nov. 2 [Under Construction Episode 2: Irrigation](#) Jan Bel Jan, Peter Brooks, CGCS, Jason Zimmerman, CGCS

Nov. 9 [Under Construction Episode 3: Bunkers](#) Jan Bel Jan, Bob Randquist, CGCS, John Curran

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

Kevin Doyle

GCSAA Field Staff kdoyle@gcsaa.org. Follow me on Twitter @GCSAA_NE



HVGCSA September Meeting & Met Team Qualifier

James Baird State Golf Course

280 Clubhouse Road, Pleasant Valley, NY

September 12, 2017

- Host: Kevin P. O'Brien
- 9:00 Registration & Continental Breakfast
(Driving Range Available)
- 10:00 Golf: Shot-Gun Start (**Met Team Qualifier**)
Format: Stroke Play
- 2:45 Buffet Dinner & Awards
- Fee: \$90.00 Golf & Dinner (Beer included)
\$50.00 Dinner only
- Dress Code: Proper Golf Attire

Meeting Sponsors



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