

# Front Nine News

A publication of the Northwestern Pennsylvania Golf Course  
Superintendents Association, Inc.  
Volume 21, Issue 3 - June 2018

## June Golf & Dinner Meeting

Thursday, June 14, 2018  
Lake View Country Club  
8351 Station Road  
North East, PA 16428  
Host - Gordon Seliga

### Meeting Agenda:

12:00 am - 1:00 pm Tee Times  
4:30 pm - 5:30 pm Social Hour  
5:30 pm Dinner  
(see entrée choices on Page 2)

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Carts: \$18/per person  
(payable in Pro Shop)

Meeting Fee: \$35  
(payable to NWPGCSA)  
Cash, checks or credit cards  
accepted



## NWPGCSA, Inc. 2018 Meeting Schedule

Sunday, January 28th  
Ladies Day Party  
Venango Valley Inn & GC  
Venango, PA  
Host: Durbin Loreno

Thursday, April 26th  
Golf, Dinner,  
& Business Meeting  
Stoughton Acres Golf Course  
Butler, PA  
Host: Van Smith

Thursday, June 14th  
Golf & Dinner Meeting  
Lake View Country Club  
Host: Gordon Seliga

August - date tba  
Possible Social Event  
Riverboat Cruise on  
Conneaut Lake

September—date tba  
Golf, Dinner, & Annual Mtg.  
Lawrence Park Golf Club  
Harbor Creek, PA  
Host: Nick Kunik

## June Golf & Dinner Meeting At Lake View Country Club Thursday, June 14, 2018

**(Cover photo was actually taken at Lake View CC. The photo was not edited in any way.)**

### ABOUT THE HOST SUPERINTENDENT:

Gordon Seliga has been at Lake View Country Club since 1986. Prior to that, he worked at Oak Tree Country Club from 1979 to 1986. He has been an NWPGCSA member since the 1980's. Gordon describes his educational experience as "some Penn State book learn'n and 25 plus years of trial and error (a lot of errors)". During his Penn State years, he received a NWPGCSA Scholarship and a PTC (Pennsylvania Turfgrass Council) scholarship. Gordon and his wife, Renee, have two children, and besides spending time with his family, Gordon's interests include GPS, GIS mapping and wood working. His best solution to most problems is to stick to the basics. What few may know about Gordon is that he likes Krispy Crème Donuts--the original glazed ones, and he likes them hot.

### ABOUT THE COURSE:

Lake View Country Club was built around 1969, and the architect was James G. Harrison, a protégé of Donald Ross. According to archival information, the original cost of the initial construction was around \$120,000. This included seed and irrigation. The course has hosted the PA State Amateur Championship and the West Penn Amateur Championship. It's total yardage is 6,850 with a par of 72. Gordon also pointed out that the golf course soils mostly consist of "Glacial Till". He believes most of the topsoil was stripped by the glaciers and deposited somewhere south of here. If any of you have any of that topsoil, Gordon asks that you please bring it back when you come to the meeting.

### DIRECTIONS:

Take I-79 to I-90 East. Get off I-90 East at the North East exit and head South on Rt. 89 (Station Road) for 1/2 mile. Course will be on the left.

RESERVATIONS are needed by Monday, June 11th for a firm head count for the meal. The entrée will be either salmon with lemon dill sauce or herbed seasoned baked 1/2 bone-in chicken. Please call Julie Powell at (724) 421-7588 to make your reservation, choose your entrée, and arrange a tee time.



One of several signature holes at LakeView CC



## 2018 Officers & Directors

### President

Michael L. Bochert  
Venango Valley Inn & GC

### Vice President

Kyle J. Woodfield  
Whispering Woods Golf Club

### Secretary/Treasurer

Bradley Chutz  
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### Directors

Nicholas Kunik  
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Justin V. Sudo  
The Kahkwa Club of Erie

Thomas T. Davies, CGCS  
OakTree Country Club

### Commercial Director

Michael Zedreck

### Executive Secretary/ Newsletter Editor

Julie Powell  
(724) 421-7588  
nwpgcsa@zoominternet.net  
www.nwpgcsa.com



Mike Bochert  
NWPGCSA President  
Supt., Venango Valley Inn & GC

## President's Message

I hope you all are doing well. It has been a sloppy start to the year with all the rain we've had lately. The water table is sitting high and with each little shower, it feels like we've been hit by a monsoon. Ruts are in full force and clumps are beginning to grow their own clumps. Playing catch up is an every day occurrence and is taking it's toll on our minds far too early in the year. The holiday weekend wasn't a total bust as the weather was hot and breezy. The rain was minimal and the ground even dried out a little. Hopefully golfers packed your morning tee sheets and filled the starving registers.

The summer heat is starting to show itself and now we focus our attention to hot spots, disease, insects and turf stress—all the fun stuff that keeps us up at night thinking about it. Early prevention and vigilant scouting are a necessity in order to stay ahead of the game. Letting our guard down is not an option as any little issue can bring us to our knees at the drop of a hat. Stay focused, be prepared to spring into action and always pray the pump runs perfect. It's always better to be proactive then reactive. The path is a much easier one to travel and usually far less stressful.

Best of luck to you all this season. May we all come out of it with our heads held high.

Sincerely,  
Michael Bochert

## 2018 Turfgrass Field Day August 8, 2018

Joseph Valentine Research Center  
at Penn State University

## Penn State Golf Turf Conference

November 13-15, 2018

**Thank You to Our Commercial Members!**  
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**Our Gold Patrons**



**Our Silver Patrons**

BASF  
Crop Production Services  
Walker Supply Inc.

**Our Bronze Patrons**

E-Z-GO, A Textron Company  
Harrell's  
Hodges Rash Company, Inc.  
Irrigation Technical Service Co.  
Keystone Turf Products  
Select Source  
Syngenta  
Weaver Golf & Turf Solutions  
Yamaha/Nuttall Golf Cars, Inc.

**Our New Members**

**Steve Marnic**  
Class D  
**Shearer Equipment**

**Kody Humes**  
Class C  
Spouse: Brianna  
16776 Maple Drive  
Saegertown, PA 16433  
(814) 573-8730—cell  
**The Country Club of Meadville**  
15955 State Highway 86  
Meadville, PA 16335  
(814) 724-7425  
Fax: (814) 724-4230

**Welcome to NWPGCSA!**

*Steve Marnic's contact information will appear in our 2018 Membership Directory, but Kody Humes's membership application was not received in time to make the directory, so please add his contact information listed above to your 2018 Membership Directory when you receive it.*

**Our Heartfelt Congratulations to . . .**

**... Gale Hultquist upon his retirement on June 8, 2018 as superintendent at Wanakah Country Club in Hamburg, New York. Gale has been a NWPGCSA member for many years, and we hope he will continue to join us as a retired member!**



# NWPGCSA Scholarship Fund News

## Raffle Ticket Winners!!!

The 2018 NWPGCSA Scholarship Fundraiser Raffle ticket winners have been drawn and notified! The 5 winners this year and the Prize Group they won are as follows:

Prize Group A Winner:  
Paul LaMarca of Corapolis, PA

Prize Group A courses are:  
Lawrence Park GC  
Tam 'O Shanter GC  
Black Hawk GC  
Scenic Heights GC  
Cable Hollow GC  
Strawberry Ridge GC

Prize Group B Winner:  
Skip Sperry of Russell, PA

Prize Group B courses are:  
New Castle CC  
Hartstown GC  
Stoughton Acres GC  
Country Meadows GC  
Downing GC

Prize Group C Winner:  
Cheryl Thompson of Columbiana, OH

Prize Group C courses are:  
Lake Shore CC  
Cross Creek Resort  
Wanango GC  
Pine Acres CC  
Venango Valley GC

Prize Group D Winner:  
Durbin Loreno of Venango, PA

Prize Group D courses are:  
The Country Club of Meadville  
Whispering Woods GC

Pine Hill GC  
Green Meadows GC  
Spring Valley GC

Prize Group E Winner:  
Glenn Vaughn of Clarks Mills, PA

Prize Group E courses are:  
Lake View CC  
Rittswood GC  
Crab Apple Ridge GC  
Mt Hope GC  
Leaning Pines GC

A HUGE THANK YOU goes out to all of our members who donated 4 rounds of golf with 2 carts at their courses as prizes for this raffle. We realize you get asked to donate "free" golf quite often and appreciate you doing so for our scholarship fund. Hopefully, someday it will benefit someone in your family!

The money raised from our Scholarship Fundraiser Raffle ticket sale has dropped off from previous years. We used to clear \$1,800 from this fundraiser, and this year we cleared \$1,300. Every member receives 2 tickets with their dues notice, and a few of you asked for more tickets to sell, most notably, Durbin Loreno, who sold 30 extra tickets. Thank you so much to those of you who sold your two tickets and the few who sold even more! We would like to see more of you selling your 2 tickets and trying to sell even more. Former prize winners will attest to what great prizes we're offering for a \$10 chance.

**The deadline for our NWPGCSA Scholarship Applications is July 1st, so there's still time to apply if you have a turf student working for you or a child or grandchild in college. They must have completed one full year of college to qualify. The necessary paperwork can be printed off of our website, [www.nwpgcsa.com](http://www.nwpgcsa.com), or contact Julie Powell at (724) 421-7588, and I will mail out an application.**



## Government Affairs

### National Golf Day 2018 rewind

A robust GCSAA presence joined the We Are Golf coalition to represent and advocate for the golf industry in Washington, D.C.



*National Golf Day attendees gathered in the Rayburn House Office Building. The day's agenda included more than 200 congressional meetings.*

During the 11th annual National Golf Day on April 25, golf industry leaders participated in a record-high 230 meetings with members of Congress representing 40 states to discuss the game's economic, social and environmental contributions.

Conversations with senators, representatives, the executive branch and federal agencies' directors coincided with Tuesday's release of the new [U.S. Golf Economy Report](#), which showed \$84.1 billion in activity was directly driven by golf in 2016, a 22 percent increase from \$68.8 billion in the 2011 report. The industry supported \$191.9 billion in total annual activity, including 1.89 million jobs and \$58.7 billion in wages and benefits. Demonstrating golfers' and businesses' commitments to charity, \$3.94 billion was raised in 2016 through tournaments and other golf activities.

The fourth report since 2000 to measure golf's impact, the 2016 research encompassed golf course operations, tourism, real estate, supplies, tournaments, associations, charitable events, capital investment and other commercial segments.

Produced by [We Are Golf](#) — a coalition of the game’s leading associations and industry partners — National Golf Day brought together heads of golf organizations and companies from throughout the United States.

“Golf is healthy, and we continue to collaborate on ways to have a positive impact in America,” says Steve Mona, CEO of the World Golf Foundation, the administrator of We Are Golf. “Meeting with many powerful lawmakers and influencers helps educate people about golf’s numerous benefits, grow participation, and preserve the game’s legacy for future generations.”

The We Are Golf agenda centers on golf course owners and operators receiving tax relief from natural disasters, labor policies, physical fitness legislation, tax reform, and environmental sustainability and conservation.

“Golf is a lifetime sport. It teaches values to the young and helps the seasoned golfer stay physically fit. Nebraska boasts some of the most diverse and beautiful golf destinations in the world,” says U.S. Sen. Deb Fischer from Nebraska. “On National Golf Day, we celebrate our love of the game and renew our commitment to ensure Americans can continue playing for generations to come.”



*Volunteers for the April 24 Community Service Project tied to National Golf Day numbered 175, and they collectively tackled 18 beautification and preservation projects on the National Mall.*

Golf ambassador and social media influencer Paige Spiranac joined the We Are Golf contingent to promote the health and wellness aspects of playing. An 18-hole round equates to a 4- to 5-mile walk and up to 2,000 calories burned.

Highlight exhibits in the Rayburn House Office Building foyer included golf lessons and swing analysis for Congress members and staff from Michael Breed, former PGA Teacher of the Year and SiriusXM PGA Tour Radio host, and Deb Vangellow, LPGA teaching professional. A closest-to-the-pin contest and Srixon/Cleveland Golf “Republicans vs. Democrats Putting Challenge” created spirited competition with support from aboutGolf, GolfTEC, Titleist and other industry brands.

The second annual [Community Service Project](#) held the previous day featured 175 participants focused on beautifying and preserving the National Mall in Washington, D.C. Golf industry leaders volunteered to lay sod, rake, edge, overseed, aerate, brush walkways and spruce gravel pathways across 18 projects from the Capitol Building to the Washington Monument. The four hours of “roll-up-your-sleeves” work saved the National Park Service nearly four months of labor.

*From GCSAA staff’s May 1, 2018 article in GCM (Golf Course Management)*



## Coping With A Slow-Growing, Sneezy Spring

MAY 18, 2018

By Dave Oatis, regional director, Northeast Region

Cool spring temperatures, slow turf growth and extraordinarily high pollen counts have been the hallmarks of this season so far. Both warm- and cool-season turf growth has been much slower than usual, which has caused wear problems and slow recovery from winter damage for courses throughout the Northeast.

Most putting greens in the Northeast are comprised of at least two species – creeping bentgrass and *Poa annua* – but some may even have velvet bentgrass or bermudagrass. All these grasses grow at different rates, particularly during spring, and their growth rates won't even out until consistently warm weather arrives.

### *Dilemma:*

Different grass species are still off-color and growing at different rates at many courses. This can make for bumpy putting surfaces. However, pushing turf too hard now weakens it and sets the stage for problems during the summer months.

### *Options:*

1. Low mowing heights can help with smoothing, but they also put more stress on turf and adversely affect rooting. Low heights of cut can weaken turf prior to the peak stress periods that are just around the corner.
2. Verticutting and topdressing also help to smooth surfaces, but verticutting thins turf and slow growth currently limits how much topdressing playing surfaces can absorb. Applying too much sand exacerbates the injury caused by golfer and maintenance traffic. As with low mowing heights, excessive verticutting and topdressing weakens turf, and there may not be enough time for recovery before summer temperatures and stress arrive.
3. A program of alternating between mowing and rolling is the best option for smoothing putting surfaces at many courses. Typically, courses are regularly performing both operations by this time of year. However, with this year's cool temperatures and slow growth, a heavy diet of mowing and rolling on the same day will cause far too much wear at many courses.

The third option will be the best for most courses. As temperatures warm and growth rates increase, the frequency of mowing, verticutting and topdressing can also increase. As long as turf growth is slow, remain conservative with surface management treatments.

*(Continued on page 9)*



*(Continued from page 8)*

It may be frustrating, but fertilizer will not produce extra growth when temperatures are too cool. Avoid the temptation to make more, or heavier, applications now because they will likely stimulate too much growth once warmer temperatures finally arrive. The weather may transition quickly from cool and wet to very hot, and that can be a shock for turf. Heavily fertilized turf fares very poorly in hot weather. Remember, for turf the golf season is a marathon not a sprint.

For allergy sufferers, keep up with your medications and hope for periodic bouts of rain to help reduce pollen counts. It'll get better soon.

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## The Mayonnaise Jar

When things in your life seem almost too much to handle, when 24 hours in a day is not enough; remember the mayonnaise jar and 2 cups of coffee.

A professor stood before his philosophy class and had some items in front of him. When the class began, wordlessly, he picked up a very large and empty mayonnaise jar and filled it with golf balls. He then asked the students if the jar was full. They agreed that it was.

The professor then picked up a box of pebbles and poured it into the jar. He shook the jar lightly. The pebbles rolled into the open areas between the golf balls. He then asked the students again if the jar was full. They agreed it was.

The professor next picked up a box of sand and poured it into the jar. Of course, the sand filled up everything else. He asked once more if the jar was full. The students responded with an unanimous "yes".

The professor then produced two cups of coffee from under the table and poured the entire contents into the jar, effectively filling the empty space between the sand. The students laughed.

"Now," said the professor, as the laughter subsided, "I want you to recognize that this jar represents your life. The golf balls are the important things—God, family, children, health, friends, and favorite passions—things that if everything else was lost and only they remained, your life would still be full. The pebbles are the things that matter like your job, house, and car. The sand is everything else—the small stuff. If you put the sand into the jar first," he continued, "there is no room for the pebbles or the golf balls. The same goes for life. If you spend all your time and energy on the small stuff, you will never have room for the things that are important to you. So pay attention to the things that are critical to your happiness. Play with your children. Take time to get medical checkups. Take your partner out to dinner. There will always be time to clean the house and fix the dripping tap. Take care of the golf balls first—the things that really matter. Set your priorities. The rest is just sand."

One of the students raised her hand and inquired what the coffee represented. The professor smiled. "I'm glad you asked. It just goes to show you that no matter how full your life may seem, there's always room for a couple of cups of coffee with a friend."