

FOREGROUND

VOL. 53 NO. 7 Published by Hudson Valley Golf Course Superintendents Association November 2016

*Happy Thanksgiving
&
Warm Holiday Wishes
to all our
HVGCSA Members & Sponsors*





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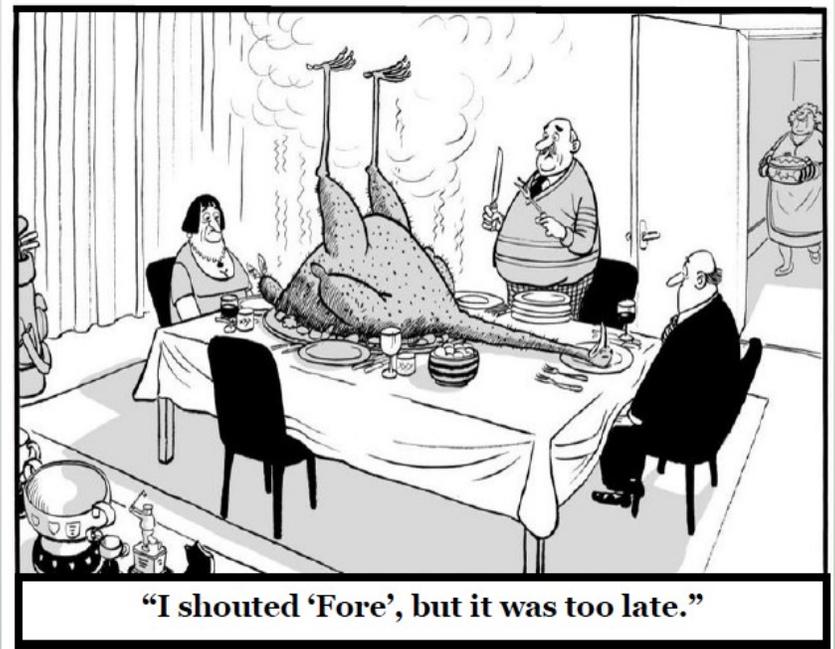
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In This Issue

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| President's Message..... | 3 |
| Hudson Valley News..... | 4 |
| Tail Gate at West Point..... | 5 |
| GCSAA, Kevin Doyle..... | 7 |
| Wiltwyck Meeting Recap..... | 8 |

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

President's Message

Doing The Right Thing

Each and every one of us is built different: in the ways we raise our kids, handle a stressful situation, take compliments, mentor younger employees, and finally choose who we do business with and why. Ethics and morals play a big role in the way we live our lives each day. Ethics is defined as principals of right conduct. Morals can be looked at as the principals on whom one's judgment of right and wrong are based. Who's to say what is morally right and wrong? I'm not sure of the answer to that, but I do know that each and every one of us has to sleep at night with the choices we make. I know I sleep much better knowing I gave someone a fair shake or handled a situation with good judgment.

When you think about it, we as superintendents make quite possibly a hundred decisions or more each day. There are calls that we make without even thinking about it. No one has time to stop and ponder each judgment for every decision they make but after the dust settles and things quiet down, maybe it's time to ask ourselves, "Did I make the right call?, Should I have given that a little more thought? When given these circumstances, should I change my answer or response the next time?"

I've been in the golf turf industry for 26 years now, 15 as superintendent, and I love the camaraderie the Hudson Valley guys share. And the local guys in my eyes are second to none when it comes to having each other's backs. This is not to say another association is much different than the Hudson Valley GCSA. It's just that when I go to a

HV meeting or an event, you walk away saying.....these guys feel like family. The respect and friendship is valued throughout our association.

Now, no group is ever perfect so when there is an issue it is well known within our association. Being on the Board for a number of years I've seen and/or heard of a few situations that have made me think twice. The toughest situations I've run across are when someone loses a job. It's rarely ever a "good situation". But regardless if the superintendent "deserved" it or not, there is going to be a position available. How that transition is handled should be held in high regard due to the fact that one of our brothers was let go/quit/retired.

I should know a bit about it because it happened here at Millbrook G & T. My predecessor, Dave Vince, who brought me into the business was not ready to retire, but was told I would be in charge until he left, which was about two years later. It

continued...page 6

Officers & Directors for 2017

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Guy Gurney, Hollow Brook Golf Club

Secretary:

Kevin O'Brien, James Baird Golf Course

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Chris Kemble, McCann Memorial Golf Course

Chris Strehl, The Links at Union Vale

Associate Member

Ernest Steinhofer, CGCS, Synergy Turf Supply

Hudson Valley News of Interest:

Peter Rappoccio, Jr. to Retire



After 39 years of service as the superintendent at Silver Spring Country Club in Ridgefield, Conn., GCSAA member Peter Rappoccio, CGCS is retiring. Rappoccio has been involved in golf course management nearly his whole life – starting at age 14. After completing Rutgers University’s two-year course in turf management, he worked at Fairview

Country Club in Greenwich, Conn., followed by his latest stint at Silver Spring.

The Ridgefield Press (11-2-16)



New Addition to the Alexander’s Family

Jennifer, Grover & Nathan welcomed Walker Ley, 8 lbs. 8 ozs. on September 28, 2016.

Congratulations!

GCSAA RECERTIFICATION:

Congratulations to the HVGCSA members who renewed their status as certified golf course superintendents .

Tim Walker, CGCS, Leewood Golf Club

John O’Keefe, CGCS, Preakness Hills Country Club

MEMBER ON THE MOVE:

Jason Werbalowsky, formerly at the Country Club at Otterkill, is now at Hickory Hills Golf Course.

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Tail Gate Party Hosted by Steve Whipple @ West Point



On October 15, the HVGCSA held it's annual **Tail Gate Party at West Point**. A few of the HV faithful's were treated to a tremendous day with perfect weather to top it off!

I have to give a big thanks to Steve for a tremendous tail gate meal he prepared that could have fed a bus load of people and also for providing all the necessary equipment we needed. We had so much food that a guy walking by decided to stop and help himself to our nachos, LOL!

Also, I want to thank Ryan Batz for supplying the beer. It included some of his Micro Brew specialties he's working on. Everyone said it tasted great! He may be soon out of the golf

business if he keeps brewing great tasting beer.

We all met at Steve's shop at 9:00 am and caravanned into Buffalo Soldier Field. After our first round of feasting we headed into Michie Stadium for a great afternoon of football which started out with the National Anthem followed by 6 Cadets parachuting onto the field to start the game. The pageantry at West Point is spectacular!!

Army beat Lafayette 62-7! Every time they scored a touchdown the cannons boomed 6 times. The whole valley echoed the sounds of another 9 touchdowns.

After the game we headed back to the tail gate party to fire up the grill for round two of the feast. "Corn Hole" was the competition of the day, and after many close contests, Brian's son Colby was the champ as he would run up and slam dunk the bean bag.

In attendance: Dan and Colleen Wilber with their two children Jake and Abby, Brian Bontemps and his children Colby and Cassidy, Chad Mathieu, Chuck and Leah Nowicki with their children, Steve and his Pops Ron, and yours truly with my daughter Elissa and some friends, Jay, Brenna, and Mary.

You should really think about joining us next year. It's a great day and you don't have to look for your golf ball!

Have a great winter!

Ernie



Thanks to Summer Mountain Brewery for providing the Beer!



President's Message...cont'd

was a very uncomfortable position for each of us. But during the entire process he reassured me I wasn't doing anything wrong, it was out of my control. Sometimes it is out of our (the superintendent's) control, it comes down to how the owner, greens committee, or general manager, handles the entire process that dictates what the potentially incoming superintendent needs to do or not do. However things transpire during the transition of a job. If you are on your way in or out of a position, please think about what the "right thing to do" at the time really is.

Thanks everyone for a great 2016. Thank you to all of our Board members who voluntarily serve our Association. Vendors who support us are valued more than any other! I hope you all get some time to recharge your worn out batteries from a stressful working season. Maybe our paths will cross in Fishkill at the NYSTA Conference and the HVGCSA winter meeting. Please try to mark the date of January 25th on your calendar for our "state of the association" meeting. It's always nice to see ALL the faces of the Hudson Valley, not just the ones that play golf.

Go Steelers!

Dan

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Kevin Doyle, GCSAA



Typically, my newsletter offering is an article on one particular topic. I've covered a lot of topics through my tenure and have your newsletter editor and board to thank for the opportunity. Of the many outreaches I make and member needs that I address or forward, my newsletter input

garners the most member feedback! Full disclosure: I have low standards. When I am told, "I see your mug everywhere," I take that as a compliment and add that to the "I like your newsletter input" column. While that might be a stretch, it is the column that is always full. I have gotten requests from members about topics, and have written about them, so if you have any topic you would like covered, please let me know and I will do my best. This particular issue is more of a rambling: some small topics that I have come across that might not warrant full-page attention.

Researchers continue to deliver valuable information on turf types that can make a positive impact on our courses and environment. "Tolerant" and "resistant" are words that make pathologists worth their weight in gold, and get the immediate attention of superintendents. If sociologists could study how to make club members and golfers more tolerant and less resistant, we might have a good thing going! Superintendents in the region dealt with a very difficult 2016 turf season, and I take my hat off to you all, but overwhelmingly I am told that it was communication that got them through. The tools that were used may have been different, but the result was nearly always the same: the less water being used on the turf, the more communication it took to manage the important decision makers at the facility. Congratulations to those that did both well.

All politics are local. That is not an earth-shattering statement. But 2016 brought more and more political pressure, aimed at golf specifically, around the region. Water has been in the limelight, but nutrients, pollinators, and pesticide issues have been prevalent as well. Superintendents have worked to educate on each item across many fronts. Bob Searle in Maine, Ken Lallier, CGCS and Kevin Komer, CGCS in Vermont, Greg Cormier, CGCS and Peter Rappoccio, CGCS in Massachusetts, Jim Ritorto in Rhode Island, Peter Gorman and Scott Ramsay, CGCS in Connecticut and many more su-

perintendents and valued vendors have worked hard to push back against regulations and legislation that would make our day-to-day jobs more difficult. Times have changed, and with that, so has our role in the golf industry. We all need to be vigilant and advocate in support of our role as environmental stewards. For all of you that have gotten involved at any level, with efforts big or small, thank you.

Finally, I want to add this last note. It was something that was not in my original article but having heard this from another superintendent, I thought it relevant. Superintendents and many facilities graciously offer our peers in the profession the opportunity to play golf for free. This is a privilege, not a right; no facility is forced to do so. Our industry operates using a code of ethics. The GCSAA has them as part of membership and you attest to having read them when you join. Many local chapters maintain a code of ethics standards as well. Having to contact the host superintendent to alert them that you will be on the property is part of these codes. This does not put the host superintendent into a position to alter his daily routines, change management practices, or ensure that every putt a colleague makes go in. What it does do is offer the simple courtesy of alerting your host that you will be there. I have never heard that an outreach to a colleague has led to rose pedals being placed at the visitor's feet upon making their way to the first tee. What I have heard many times is the extreme frustration of a host in finding out that a colleague has been on property without notifying the host. Please consider this when making plans to visit another golf course. While the upside may be small, the downside could may make an impact on how you are viewed by your peers. Golf is a sport of integrity, ensure you keep yours intact.

Celebrating Veterans Day with a look at West Point Golf Course in West Point, NY



Golf course superintendent Steve Whipple tells us about the history of the golf course at West Point and how it plays an active role in the army. He also tells us about how they give back to vets that have proudly served our country.

Click [HERE](#) to view video.

GCSAA

Meeting @ Wiltwyck.....recap



Congratulations to Dave Lippman our 2016 Worthington Cup Winner!

Our last meeting of the season was hosted by Paul Pritchard, CGCS and Jason Naplier at Wiltwyck CC on October 17. Wonderful mild sunny weather just made the day that much more enjoyable for all those fortunate to attend.

The meeting, the Worthington Cup featuring a new "Cup" and the Elections made for an exciting day, and a little dramatic especially for the hotly contested seat for Associate Rep, but not as dramatic as the National Presidential Elections. Congratulations to Ernie again!

Golf Awards:

1st Place Gross - Dave "lower lip" Lippman

2nd Place Gross - USMA West Point Super Steve "King of all Media" Whipple

1st Place Net - Rotella's own Chris Dyroff

2nd Place net - Ernie "AF Rep" Steinhofner

Closest to Pin honors went to Jeff Newell, Garrison GC - Brian Bontemps, Seeton Turf - John Phillips, Beekman GC and Jay Werbalowsky, Hickory Hills GC.

Long Drive: Mike Weber, Fisher and Son.

50/50 Winners: Kevin Collins, George Wade and Ernie.

Thanks to Paul, Jason, and staff for making our day special. The place was in great shape! A special thanks to our Title Sponsor **Syngenta**, and Co-Sponsors **Metro Turf & Valley Green** for their continued support. Thanks Ernie for running the awards and to our Board members Chris Kemble, Steve Whipple, Dan Wilber, and Grover Alexander for working the tables and running the Election.

We have a great Board and a very vibrant Association! Thanks to all that make it that way.

Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas, see you next year!

Bill Luthin



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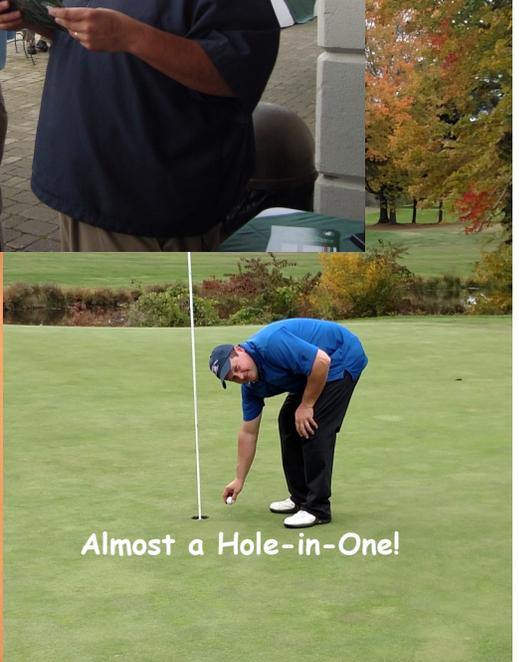
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A FUN DAY AT WILTWYCK!



GCSAA Resources and Deadlines

GCSAA 2017 Member Engagement Opportunities

The GCSAA Board of Directors invites you to submit your name for consideration for a 2017 committee/task group service. Resources are located [here](#).

Upcoming FREE webcasts:

[Nov. 29: 2017 Winter Outlook and Advancements in Lightning Safety](#)

[Dec. 1: Increase Your Value: Effective Communications & Your Blog](#)

[Dec. 8: Preparing for an Active Shooter](#)

[Dec. 15: Salinity and its Management for Turf](#)

[Jan. 18: Look at Your Irrigation System's Distribution Uniformity](#)

[Jan. 24: Fine Fescue as a Putting Surface](#)

[Jan. 26: Carbon, Carbon Everywhere: How carbon functions in your turgrass system](#)

[Feb. 1: Mobile Weed Manual - A Portable Resource](#)

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

Letter from the Editor



As 2016 season ends I'm sure many of us will look back and view it in different ways. To the superintendents & assistants I'm sure you are glad to see it end so you can take a well deserved break! Trying to keep the course looking pretty without the help of mother nature's irrigation system can be very stressful. But as a golfer myself I will miss the endless sunny days & long evenings that I enjoyed playing golf with my friends. I don't think I missed one weekend or league night because of rain. Last year I had 4 rain checks that I never used.

This will be the last Foreground for this year and I have to thank our **"TOP WRITER"** Kevin Collins for a 11 years of entertaining articles that brings tears to my eyes from laughing as I sit here reading through some of the old and new **Hudson Valley News of Interest**. After one of the articles Kevin wrote, I had a HV member congratulate me on my **Irish Hurling Hall-of-Fame Award**. I wasn't sure how to respond so I asked Kevin, and he said not to worry that he would have follow up story on the next issue. Well, I m sure you all read it and now you know the outcome **"I'm so ashamed."** Over the years Kevin has given up so much of his time to write these articles, so please thank him when you get a chance. He loves feedback and any new material that you can provide. Although, he has mentioned on a few occasions that he would like to retire from this position. So, if anyone would like to write a article or two, that would be a great help!

With the Holiday's around the corner, every year I say I'm doing nothing, but always end up running around like a crazy person at the last minute buying gifts and food to make dinner for a bunch of people, mostly my family. I'm somewhat of a procrastinator when it comes to spending money, but at the end of the day I feel guilty if I don't, especially around the holidays!

Have a wonderful Holiday & New Years!

See you at the Winter Meeting in January.

Susan



Upcoming Events

MetGCSA Winter Seminar

Westchester CC, January 18, 2017

HVGCSA Winter Meeting

& Southeast Regional Conference

Ramada Inn, Fishkill, NY

January 25 - 26, 2017

GIS & Nor'easter Event

Orlando, Florida

February 4 - 9, 2017

Note: Details of the Nor'easter will be emailed a week before the event.