

FOREGROUND

VOL. 57 NO. 5 Published by Hudson Valley Golf Course Superintendents Association December 2020



*Wishing our Members
a Safe and Happy
Holiday Season*



Board of Directors

President:

Chris Kemble, *McCann Memorial GC*

Vice President:

Timothy Walker, *CGCS, Leewood GC*

Treasurer:

Reese Wasson, *Spook Rock GC*

Secretary:

Ben Babbage, *Storm King GC*

Past President:

Grover Alexander, *Hudson Hills GC*

Directors:

Mike Aube, *Osiris Golf Club*

Vincent Barnaba, *The Powelton Club*

Evan Weymouth, *Patriot Hills GC*

AF Rep:

Brian Bontemps, *Noble Turf*

Newsletter Editor & Executive Secretary:

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

HVGCSA Mission Statement

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



In This Issue

President's Message.....	3
Plan for Success.....	7
Chapter Delegates Highlights.....	9
Last Meeting Recap.....	12

President's Message



As the first year of my Presidency ends, all I have to say is what a year it has been! I'm sure you are all looking forward to some down time to recharge the batteries for 2021. It truly was a demanding year for all superintendents and assistants with the record-breaking rounds of golf across the US and all the restrictions we had to follow that changed from day to day.

On top of all the challenges we had on the golf course, the HVGCSA Board had some extra challenges to deal with in making decisions on whether or not to hold meetings. With all the misinformation flying around you never knew who or what to believe. We were lucky to get 4 meetings in with no issues and all were well attended. I would like to thank our sponsors for their support and the superintendents that hosted our 2020 meetings.

We are in the process of setting up our 2021 meeting schedule: So far, we got Leewood GC in May for the HV Cup and Storm King GC in July for the Nine & Dine. If anyone would like to host a 2021 meeting please let us know as soon as possible so we can lock in the date.

As most of you already know, the upcoming seminars will be virtual. NYSTA & the MetGCSA has webinars scheduled in January & February, details will be listed on their websites. The GIS is scheduled for February 2-4, [registration is now open](#). Our HVGCSA Annual meeting/ Elections that is usually scheduled the end of January with the NYSTA seminar/conference will not be held due to ongoing COVID restrictions. The elections will be decided with absentee ballots that will be emailed to all voting members in January.

I would like to wish all the HVGCSA members and their families a great Holiday Season! Let's hope 2021 is a much better year for all!

Stay strong!

Regards,

Chris Kemble



SPONSORS

A.G. Enterprises

Staff Uniforms
Rick Gordon
201-488-1276 (F) 201-575-4140
merrick160@gmail.com
www.agenterprisesonline.com

Aquatrols Corp. of America

The World Leader in Soil Surfactants & Wetting Agents
1273 Imperial Way, Paulsboro, NJ 08066
Tom Valentine: 610-299-4470
tvalentine@aquatrols.com

BASF

We Create Chemistry
Paul Ramina: 908-413-2944
Paul.ramina@basf.com

Bayer U.S.

Backed By Bayer
Dave Sylvester: 860-841-3173
David.sylvester@bayer.com

Carriere Materials, LLC

*U.S. Silica Topdressing & Bunker Sands
VFB Bunker Sands, Partac TopDressing*
Bill Carriere: 914-939-4884
bc1000@verizon.net

Finch Services, Inc.

John Deere Golf & Turf Equipment
George Corgan: (C) 914-893-0868
(O) 631-727-8700
gorgan@finchinc.com | www.Finchinc.com

Fisher & Son, Company

Green Industry Professionals Since 1928
Mike Weber: (C) 347-486-0480
mweber@fisherandson.com

Grass Roots Turf Products, Inc.

Serving Turfgrass Professionals Since 1978
Ryan Avery | Keith Kubik | Nick Alley
(O) 973-252-6634
www.GRIturf.com | sales@GRIturf.com

Harrell's

Growing a Better World Partner for Success
Scott Tretera: 914-262-8638
Jim Seaman: 518-365-5409
Fred Montgomery: 518-813-7814
www.harrells.com
stretera@harrells.com



**The Industry
Leader In Service**

We Pride Ourselves in

- Customer Service
- Technical Support
- Quality Products

We carry a full line of turf maintenance supplies from the leading manufacturers in the industry. Products include: plant protectants, fertilizers, grass seed, tools, golf course accessories, soils, topdressing, mulches, adjuvants and much more.



Follow & Tweet Us



www.facebook.com/GrassRootsTurf



www.twitter.com/GrassRootsTurf

Serving The Turfgrass Professional Since 1978

Grass Roots Turf Products

www.griturf.com

Address: 4 Middlebury Blvd., Suite 7, Randolph, NJ 07869

Phone: 973-252-6634 - Email: sales@griturf.com

Nor'Easter Ski Event "Cancelled"



Folks, we hope everyone is managing through these unprecedented times in our lives and is keeping their families, friends and work staffs safe!

As some of us watch the first snow flakes of the season fall and think about trading out the golf clubs for the skis, we thought we would pass along a message about this season's Nor'easter Ski Day.

After lengthy discussions with Killington and Vermont this fall, it is with deep regret that we will not be holding the Nor'easter Ski Day this year. Killington will not be doing food services this year, which means the Wobbly Barn downstairs will not be open. They have also cancelled all racing at the mountain and will also have limited capacity for skiing. Finally, Vermont is currently requiring some types of quarantining for folks coming from "red" areas, which pretty much all of the out of staters are right now. Come February of next year, no one knows what that will look like.

With no racing, food and beverage and of course the quarantining, there's just no possible way to hold the event.

We hope everyone understands and knows we are just as disappointed as you all are. Let's hope we can get past this time in history and look forward to more gatherings come in the 2021 golf season!

All the best to everyone, and here's to a better 2021/2022!!

The Nor'easter Ski Committee

Andy Drohen

(October 30, 2020)

Webinars

METGCSA

January 13, 2021

10:30 - 12:45

NYSTA

January 19, 2021

10:00 - 11:45

January 20, 2021

10:00 - 11:15

GCSAA

GIS

February 2 - 4, 2021

NYSTA

February 18, 2021

10:00 - 11:15

NYSTA

March 11, 2021

10:00 - 11:15

****Check websites for more details.**



Customers, Our **TOP** Priority.



**Team Metro is proud to be an HVGCSA
Platinum Sponsor!**

Contact Your Metro Turf Specialist Today!

Todd Apgar
(203) 948-4941

Todd.Apgar@MetroTurfSpecialists.com

Rich Apgar
(516) 216-0731

Rich.Apgar@MetroTurfSpecialists.com

Ted Steffensen
(631) 478-1648

Ted.Steffensen@MetroTurfSpecialists.com

Matt Topazio
(845) 821-8986

Matt.Topazio@MetroTurfSpecialists.com

Scott Apgar
(914) 879-9357

Scott.Apgar@MetroTurfSpecialists.com

PLAN FOR SUCCESS IN 2021

By: Kevin Doyle, GCSAA Northeast Rep

SUCCESS

With autumn passed by and the agronomic practices in the rearview mirror, the frosty and snowy mornings will begin and staff numbers will have lightened. Planning projects may be part of a larger master plan for the facility. These are great tools to ensure the projects undertaken by the club are done in a fiscally responsible manner and keep progress moving forward on a schedule. A very beneficial undertaking for the facility, but what impact does that have in your department? While budgeting offers a chance to plan for equipment and staffing numbers, have you done any planning specific to the grounds team at your facility?

The winter offers the perfect time to engage your biggest assets, your team. Why not consider a SCOR analysis with them. Getting their feedback on team dynamics could be key in making improvements you never saw. Where are the strengths of your team, what challenges do they see? Are there opportunities that would improve the processes you already have in place? What risks do your staff see within the grounds department? Would you benefit from this information? Would your team be more effective after engaging them in developing such an analysis?

Effective planning includes a lot of input, and your staff are poised to provide that information. Planning for a successful 2021 season could easily begin on a wintery morning this off-season. GCSAA conducts such strategic planning sessions for chapters. Utilizing that same process and providing your board of directors similar opportunities to plan for improvement is a great benefit and assists in creating value for your association members.

Do you challenge or set goals for your staff? We thrive in an industry that blends science and art while newer techniques trend towards quantitative, measurable data. GCSAA offers two great programs that will benefit individuals on you staff, your team, and the facility. These professional development opportunities for key staff members can assist you structure advancement or benefit increases for your people, all while increasing their value to the facility. What better time to encourage participation than the off-season.

The [Assistant Superintendent Certificate Series](#) is composed of certificates covering key competency areas of:

Agronomy

Business

Leadership and Communications

Environmental Stewardship

The certificates are golf-centric, available to GCSAA members and non-members, and can be completed in any order. It is strongly recommended that an assistant superintendent has at least two years of work experience before beginning any of the ASCS certificates. However, the certificates are available to all and not limited to assistants.

[Equipment Management Certificate Program Level 1-Level 2](#) -Certification are a series of exams designed to demonstrate proficiency in key competency areas related to turf equipment. This certificate program is available to any and all turf equipment technicians regardless of whether you work for a golf course.

Continued...page 10



PLAN AHEAD & SAVE NOW

2020 EARLY ORDER PROGRAM

Getting out ahead — that's how you win in this game. And stocking up on the right supplies at the right time gives you the competitive edge in this business. At SiteOne®, we have all the turf maintenance products you need, including top agronomic brands like LESCO®. And if you stock up on game-changing products from SiteOne today, we'll throw a few of these special offers in there, too.



**EXTENDED
PAYMENT TERMS**



**REBATE
PROGRAM**

Visit [SiteOne.com/EOP](https://www.siteone.com/EOP) for Details

September 1 - December 31, 2020



Membership Dues increase: GCSAA Board of Directors supporting a dues increase of \$15 for A/B members and \$10 for C members. This is based off a membership approved/supported review of Consumer Price Index every 2 years. The CPI has increased 3.3% over the last two years, which equates to the dues increases of \$15 and \$10. The BOD is going to discuss at the winter board meeting about putting the dues increase on the 2021 annual meeting to vote or to put it off for another year due to COVID.

GCSAA Funding is comprised of 48% Industry support, 25% Member dues, 18% user fees.

GCSAA Expenses comprise 32% Education, Advocacy & Environmental programs, 29% Golf Industry Show, 10% Member & Chapter services.

Golf Industry Show: The GIS will be moving to a virtual experience for 2021. They previewed what it will look like. It looks very interesting; however, it will lack the comradery and networking that an in-person GIS would provide. There will be chat rooms available for people to interact and each company will have a booth to review products through videos.

Elections: Annual election will be held via zoom during the virtual annual meeting Thursday, February 4, 2021 from 12:00 - 2:00pm.

Candidates running for the 2021 GCSAA Board:

- **President-** Mark Jordan, CGCS
- **Vice-President-** Kevin Breen, CGCS
- **Secretary/Treasurer:** Kevin Sunderman, CGCS | Jeff White, CGCS

Directors: TA Barker, CGCS | Paul Carter, CGCS | Jon Christenson | Chris Reverie | Marc Weston, CGCS

Here's a [LINK](#) for more information on the Candidates & Annual Meeting.



Tim Walker, CGCS
Leewood Golf Club

Slate of Officers for 2021

**Note: There will be no Annual Meeting
Elections will be done by Absentee Ballots.**

Officers are elected for a one-year term.

President: Chris Kemble, McCann Memorial Golf Course

Vice-President: Tim Walker, CGCS., Leewood Golf Club

Secretary: Ben Babbage, Storm King Golf Club

Treasurer: Reese Wasson, Spook Rock Golf Course

Director: (2-year term)

Mike Aube, Osiris Golf Club

**If any other A or B member wishes to be nominated, please contact the
nominating chairman, Grover Alexander (914) 260-3956**

Elections will be held in January.

Absentee Ballots will be emailed to all voting members.

SPONSORS

Metro Turf Specialists

*"Customers, Our **TOP** Priority"*
Matt / Scott / Rich / Todd / Ted
(O) 203-748-4653 (GOLF)
www.metroturfspecialists.com

Noble Turf

25 Roland Avenue
Mount Laurel, NJ 08054
Brian Bontemps: 845-239-7959

Ocean Organics

828 Center Meadow Lane
Danbury, CT 06810
Kevin Collins: Territory Manager
(C) 914-621-1151
kevin@oceanorganics.com

Plant Food Company, Inc.

The Liquid Fertilizers Experts
Dick Neufeld: 973-945-6318
Tom Weinert: 914-262-0111
Dave Conrad: 914-263-3244

Saratoga Sod Farm

1670 Route 4
Stillwater, NY 12170
Laurie Griffen
(O) 518-664-5038 (C) 518-265-0160

Site One Landscape Supply

"Stronger Together"
Chad Mathieu: 914-539-5675
Owen Groves: 914-736-9056

Soil Solutions, LLC

DRILL & FILL - Aerification Professionals
7 Whittemore Pl, Rye Brook, NY 10573
Anthony & John Decicco
(O) 914-393-0659
soilsolutionsllc369@gmail.com

Storr Tractor Company

3191 Highway 22, Branchburg, NJ 08876
Steve Bradley: 908-413-5640
Rick Krok: 908-413-3403

Plan for Success in 2021.....cont'd

The Level 1 program is made up of eight exams covering the key competency areas of:

cutting units
drivetrain systems
electrical systems
engine technology
hydraulic systems
metalworking and fabrication
spray systems
fundamentals of turfgrass operations



You can choose to take one exam or work to complete the entire program by successfully completing all eight exams in any order. Level 2 follows completion, with a Certification opportunity upon finishing both levels.

You will spend countless hours with decision makers at your facility this winter preparing for improvements to the grounds to ensure a successful 2021 season. Be sure to have those discussions with your team, allow them the opportunity to shape the culture for success (SCOR analysis), and challenge them to use certificate resources available for your people to succeed in 2021 and beyond.

By: Kevin Doyle



***PROUDLY SERVING THE HVGCSA
SINCE 1976***

syngenta



PrimeraOne.



**STANDARD
GOLF COMPANY**

QUALITY PRODUCTS! SUPERIOR SERVICE!

SEE US ON THE WEB:

WWW.WESTCHESTERTURF.COM

CALL ON US ANYTIME!

Bob Lippman, Jr: (C) 914-447-6257 bob@westchesterturf.com

Dave Lippman: (C) 914-447-5192 Dave@westchesterturf.com

Mansion Ridge Meeting.....Recap



We had 40 + members and guests that came out to The Golf Club at Mansion Ridge on October 5th to enjoy the final meeting of the season. Rob & his staff had the course in great condition for our Worthington Cup tournament.

Congratulations to our 2020 Worthington Cup Champion! Matt Topazio, from Metro Turf Specialists. It was a match of cards that decided the winner. Matt tied the defending champ Dave Lippman, from Westchester Turf Supply with a gross score of 78.

A big THANK YOU to all our 2020

sponsors for their continued support, and all the staff at Mansion Ridge for making the our event run smoothly. Hosting an event this year wasn't easy.

Results:

Worthington Cup Champ: Matt Topazio

Gross: Matt Topazio (78) & Dave Lippman (78)

1st Low Net: Royal Healy, Sleepy Hollow Country Club (68)

2nd Low Net: Todd Apgar, Metro Turf Specialists (70)

Closest to Pin: Matt Kerens, Paramount Country Club

Long Drive: Mike Scaperotti, Dogwood Knolls GC

Have a great Winter!

Grover

SPONSORS

Syngenta

Manufacture of Plant Protection Products
Daconil Action, Acelepryn, Ference
Brian Goudey: 518-764-2412
www.greencastonline.com

Tanto Irrigation

5. N. Payne Street, Elmsford, NY 10523
Paul L. Guillaro: 914-262-7324
pquillaro@tantoirrigation.com

Valley Green, Inc

205 Wilson Ave, Norwalk, CT 06854
Gregory Moran: (C) 845-901-1358
(O) 203-831-9748
g.moran@valleygreenusa.com

Westchester Tractor, Inc.

60 International Boulevard
Brewster, NY 10509
John Apple| Jeff Underhill
845-278-7766
www.wtractor.com

Westchester Turf Supply, Inc.

"Serving the HVGCSA Since 1976"
Bob Lippman: 914-447-6257
Dave Lippman: 914-447-5192
info@westchesterturf.com

FEB. 2-4

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

golfindustryshow.com

GIS2021 VIRTUAL

Your Space. Your Pace. All in One Place.

GOLF INDUSTRY SHOW
GCSAA



GROWING A BETTER
WORLD[®]
Golf Courses

*Liquid Nutritionals • Fertilizers
Adjuvants • Plant Protectants • Wetting Agents*



Serve | Grow | Protect

Visit us at www.harrells.com

