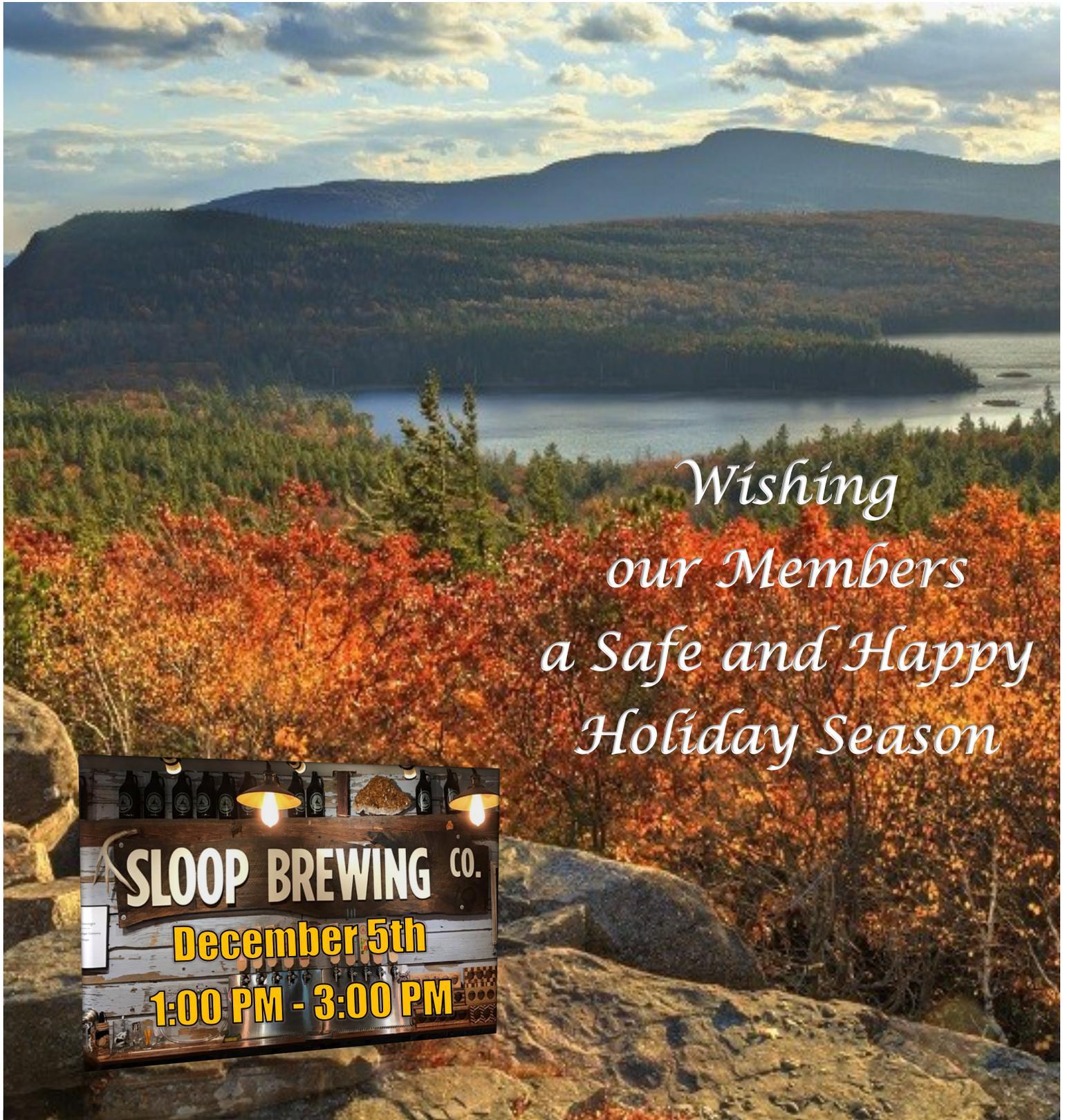


# FOREGROUND

VOL. 56 NO 6 Published by Hudson Valley Golf Course Superintendents Association November 2019



*Wishing  
our Members  
a Safe and Happy  
Holiday Season*

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**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.*



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MAY YOUR TURKEY BE PLUMP.  
MAY YOUR POTATOES'N GRAVY...  
HAVE NARY A LUMP,  
MAY YOUR YAMS BE DELICIOUS,  
MAY YOUR PIES TAKE THE PRIZE,  
MAY YOUR THANKSGIVING DINNER  
STAY OFF OF YOUR THIGHS.**

*Happy Thanksgiving*

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# President's Message



Here we go! My last President's letter. As I sit here contemplating on what to write, I'm thinking to myself, where did the last 2 years go? If every 2 years go by this fast, I'll be an old man in no time!

As I said before, I'm very grateful to have had the opportunity to serve as President. I couldn't have done it without the support of the board members and especially Susan, our Executive Secretary. I really can't say enough good things about Susan and what she brings to the association. She really goes above and beyond her duties to make sure everything is running smoothly. Running an association is truly a team effort and if everyone pitches in, it makes the experience that much more rewarding. I feel confident that, when I pass on the reigns to our new leadership, the association will be in good hands.

Besides our board members, I can't thank Kevin Collins enough for all the great articles he has submitted over the past 15+ years for our newsletter. I'm sure all of you would agree that the newsletter would not be the same without the HV News section. Also, I would like to thank our long-time member and great supporter of the association, Bill Luthin. Bill has been our one reliable source that came to almost every meeting and did us the honors of writing a recap of the meeting for our newsletter. Unfortunately, Bill will be stepping down from that position due to his company (Wilfred MacDonald) getting out of the Turf business. Make sure you reach out to thank Bill for all that he has done for the association.

**Meetings:** Due to weather and low registration we had to cancel our October Meeting/Worthington Cup at Philip Rotella. Chris has offered to host a meeting in 2020. I didn't make it to the Tailgate at West Point with the MetGCSA, but I heard it was a great day with 40+ Met & HV members & guests that came out to have some fun. Thanks to Brian Bontemps & Steve Whipple for organizing the event. We look forward to doing it again next year!

**Sponsors:** We can't thank our sponsors enough for their continued support of our association. Please show your appreciation by supporting them.

Don't forget to stop by Sloop Brewing on December 5th for our Year End Event!

Have a great Holiday Season!

Grover

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# BOARD OF DIRECTORS CORNER



## GCSAA

### Chapter Delegates Meeting

By: Chris Kemble, GCS

On October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2019 I represented the Hudson Valley chapter at the annual GCSAA chapter delegates meeting. I have listed a few key messages from the meeting. I would like to point out how the

GCSAA is working for the golf industry. The industry faces many hurdles in government as well as the always changing culture. If you haven't checked out the GCSAA website I suggest you do. They offer an immense amount of information to better help all its members succeed in a number of ways. I thank them for all that they do and will continue to support them.

#### Key Messages

- **Association Report** CEO J. Rhett Evans briefed delegates on the state of GCSAA. GCSAA is in a strong financial position with investments totaling \$7.7 million. The EIFG has \$9.9 million in reserves. GCSAA has an operating budget of \$18 million. Evans shared the following highlights:

How GCSAA is funded

- ✦ 48% industry support
- ✦ 25% member dues
- ✦ 18% user fees

How GCSAA spends its money

- ✦ 32% education; advocacy and environmental programs
- ✦ 29% Golf Industry Show
- ✦ 10% member and chapter services
- ✦ GCSAA is a not for profit – revenue is used to support programs and services that benefit GCSAA members.

**State BMP Implementation and Facility Adoption** – The delegates received an update on GCSAA's goal of BMPs in all 50 states by 2020. Mark Johnson, associate director of environmental programs, thanked the chapters that have been working diligently on making this goal a reality. There are currently 21 states with a BMP in place, 17 states that will finish up in 2019 and the remaining 12

states are anticipated to be complete by 2020. Johnson advised that facility adoption workshops have begun. Chapters can request grants to help offset the costs of this important next step.

**Golf Industry Show** – COO Robert M. Randquist, CGCS, shared information regarding the 2020 Golf Industry Show including the layout of the trade show floor and 50 percent of seminars offered this year are new [plus 23 free sessions](#).

**GCSAAPAC Fundraising** – Kevin P. Sunderman, GCSAAPAC board chairman, briefed the delegates on a few of the fundraising initiatives the GCSAAPAC has undertaken in the past year. Sunderman announced that the GCSAAPAC would sponsor a raffle during the meeting to help reach the goal of \$15,000 raised in 2019.

**Chapter Outreach Updates** – John R. Fulling, Jr., CGCS, Chairman of the Affiliation Agreement Task Group, and Steve Randall, director of chapter outreach, covered updates around the [GCSAA Affiliation Agreement](#), Chapter Assessment Survey and outreach activities.

The Affiliation Agreement Task Group met in April to review the Affiliation Agreement. The task group recommended and the GCSAA Board approved five changes to the agreement. The most notable of these changes involved Section III. B, Promotional Materials and Logo. All chapters who accept GCSAA chapter logo grant monies are required to change their logos and abide by the GCSAA brand and style guide. Affiliation Agreements are due on Dec. 31. The GCSAA Assessment Survey will launch Nov. 15. This survey is conducted every three years and is used to benchmark chapter activities in 10 competency areas. The assessment survey is due on Dec. 31.

**Professional development and career opportunities focus group** - Qualified labor continues to be a challenge impacting the membership. In the Professional Development and Career Opportunities focus group, a few of GCSAA's programs and initiatives that can be used to train and develop staff were shared, including assistant and equipment manager certificate programs, outreach efforts with FFA and high school students. Feedback was gathered from the delegates on additional ideas.

*Continued...page 9*



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# *From your GCSAA Field Staff:*



Whether good or bad, we find ourselves working in a relationship business. Many of us didn't sign up for the career with the knowledge that we would need to manage turf with the same vigor as personal interactions, but alas, here we are. I don't

want to focus on turf, or even people — one of my favorite topics. I want to ask how you balance the one thing that we all rely on whether you are a superintendent or in sales. We all depend on the sport of golf, and it depends on us.

The industry has seen a building boom, the Tiger craze, and the economic regression followed by course closures. Hundreds of New York facilities and thousands of employees were taken on that same ride, whether we wanted to or not.

Member expectations seemed to have missed any regression or corrections. As the turf speed limit continues to get pushed and demand for perfection continues to ramp up, pressure continues to escalate on all of us. Technological advances in products and devices that fostered new groundbreaking solutions that previously helped achieve the desired conditions while saving time, money, or labor, are now simply achieving the new normal.

With the industry continuing to dictate the cornerstone of our lives in a manner we simply can't seem to impact no matter what we do, how do you balance golf? Do you put in your time and maximize your effort on the job and leave it all behind when you "punch out," if that is possible? Do you golf often, watch golf on television, and take vacations to play in far off lands? There is no correct way to balance, and I have no intention of pontificating on how you should approach golf. We all develop an approach and hopefully manage the impact it has on us in a positive way, and often changes in our personal lives can affect change on our approach.

What I want to touch on is a word you just read and probably glossed over quickly: "positive." Above were challenges in our daily lives that are

dictated to us, many beyond our control. There are many more negative items that can be added that we in the industry have no control over. Can a focus on some of the positives in our golf world help overcome some of the challenges?

Are rounds up this year? With added revenue might come a new piece of equipment, approval for a beneficial project, additional dollars to the labor budget; items that can help ease the burden on the work aspect of golf.

Did your staff complete a successful season; help you deliver a good product to your membership or customers? It is now cultural practices season, meaning the grind of another season is over. As you assess the impact of 2019, what positives came from it that you can build on in 2020?

Have you had the chance to play golf? An enjoyable round of golf with friends or colleagues can be a wonderful reminder of what makes the game so great. We depend on the positive impacts the sport has on all of our players to survive as an industry. Taking the time to play yourself should find its way on your to do list, even if it is a rare occasion.

The golf industry might seem like it has all the momentum, a freight train that dictates all. Our little individual piece of that industry may simply be a railroad tie connecting the rails and responsible for moving the industry forward. With every positive step we make personally, any impact our facility adds, can change the outlook for the entire industry. Collectively, we can impact the direction of the freight train our golf industry has become for the better. All aboard!

**Kevin Doyle**

**GCSAA Field Staff**

[kdoyle@gcsaa.org](mailto:kdoyle@gcsaa.org)

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## GCSAA Chapter Delegates Meeting ....cont'd

**Code of Ethics** – The Federal Trade Commission’s anti-trust laws prohibit associations from limiting competition amongst members. GCSAA has revised its code of ethics to comply with federal law.

**Candidate Presentations and Breakouts** – The candidates for the 2020 GCSAA Board of Directors gave presentations and visited delegates in breakout rooms. The delegates were awarded ample time to interact and ask questions of the candidates. Those running for the GCSAA Board in 2020 are:

- o For president – John R. Fulling, Jr., CGCS
- o For vice president – Mark F. Jordan, CGCS
- o For secretary/treasurer
  - ✦ Kevin P. Breen, CGCS
  - ✦ Kevin P. Sunderman
- ✦ For director (electing two directors)
  - ✦ Zachary Bauer
  - ✦ Douglas D. Dykstra, CGCS
  - ✦ Glenn M. Matthews, CGCS

Kevin Breen, CGCS, and Kevin Sunderman are at the end of their two-year terms as a director. The unsuccessful secretary/treasurer candidate will need to be nominated from the floor to run for a director position.

Read more: <https://www.gcsaa.org/resources/regional-resources/central-plains/central-plains-blog/2018/11/27/chapter-delegates-key-updates-initiatives#ixzz654N3PJHh>

**Chris Kemble, GCS**  
**McCann Memorial Golf Course**

## Thanks!!



After 91 years in the turfgrass equipment business, Wilfred MacDonald Inc. is exiting from the business. I have been with Wilfred for 37 years as well as a member of the Hudson Valley Golf Course Superintendents Association. Working with Wilfred has been a wonderful experience. During my tenure, I had the pleasure of meeting and working with many in our association. Many friendships were made and still remain strong. I thank you all for being a big part of my life. I'm not sure what the future holds, but not looking to fade away yet. Anyone interested in writing the "last meeting" article for the Foreground, please contact Susan. Best wishes to all and thanks again for all your support. It has been a great ride!

Sincerely,  
Bill Luthin



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## GCSAA Resources and Deadlines

*you Get Cool Stuff from your  
Association Already:*

### Registration opens for 2020 Golf Industry Show in Orlando

GCSAA and presenting partners, the Golf Course Builders Association of America (GCBA) and American Society of Golf Course Architects (ASGCA), will offer a dynamic, progressive week of unparalleled networking opportunities and hands-on access to golf course and facility management solutions for golf industry professionals.

### Redeem your GCSAA gift certificates for GIS costs

GCSAA is offering show attendees the opportunity to reduce the cost of participating in the show by allowing GCSAA gift certificates to be redeemed for flight and hotel expense.

[Redeem GCSAA gift certificates](#)

## Upcoming Webinars

Dec. 5 @ 10 a.m.

[How to Set Yourself Apart in the Golf Industry - The Art of Self Promotion](#)

Darren Davis, CGCS

Dec. 12 @ 10 a.m.

[Best Management Practices for the Turf Care Center](#)

Gary Bogdanski

## Upcoming Meetings & Events

### **Year End Social**

Sloop Brewing

December 5, 2019

### **MetGCSA Winter Seminar**

Westchester Country Club

January 15, 2020

### **Winter Meeting/Elections**

NYSTA Southeast Regional Conference

Resorts World Casino

Monticello, NY

January 21 - 22, 2020

### **Golf Industry Show**

Nor'easter Social Event

Orlando, FL

January 24 - 30, 2020

### **Nor'easter Ski Day**

Killington Mountain, VT

February 27, 2020



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# 2019 Met Team Championship

By: Andy Drohen

## The Connecticut AGCS wins 2019 Met Area Team Championship



HV Team: Dan Wilber, Tim Garceau, Grover Alexander, Blake Halderman, Brent Belden, Scott Tretera, Tim Walker & Steve Whipple

For the second time in the past 3 years and the fifth time in the past 15 years, the team representing the Connecticut AGCS wins the MET Team Championship at Morris County Golf Club in Morristown, NJ. Connecticut dominated this year's event, winning by 13 strokes with a well-balanced team. Kevin Collins and Eric Morrison led all Net teams with a score of 66 and the team of Mike Dukette and Eric DeStefano were just one off the low gross score at 72. Overall the 8-person team was just +3 with Jason Dowgiewicz and Andrew Hannah at 75 gross and Jay Popko and Tim Nadeau at 70 net rounding out the Connecticut champions.

Host Superintendent Jon Heywood and his team had Morris County in pristine conditions, with everyone praising the recent renovation work they have done on the course. Morris County Golf Club is a Seth Raynor gem founded in 1894 and at the time was the first club planned, organized and operated by women. Morris County was one of the early members of the USGA and the first club in NJ to host a national championship.

While Connecticut seemingly ran away with this year's championship, the battle for second was extremely close. The defending team from the MetGCSA lost a match of cards to New England for second and third place, and

Long Island finished just one shot back in fourth place. It just goes to show you, every shot counts out there!

Year after year, the Met Area Team Championship was made possible by our 7 major sponsors who continue to step up to make this one of the best events across North America! Please join me in thanking BASF, Bayer, Koch Turf & Ornamental, Ocean Organics, Plant Food, Syngenta and Toro as they continue to support this fantastic event.

The Met Area Team Championship continues to raise money each year to help those in our industry going through difficult times. Over the past 9 years we have raised over \$10,000 and have supported superintendents, industry representatives and their families in times of need. Last year we donated \$1,000 to the Scott Wiiki memorial Rutgers Scholarship. Scott was the superintendent at Mill Creek in Rochester, NY and suddenly passed due to a brain aneurism at the age of 28. Thank you to all who support these efforts with the 50/50 raffles! If you know of anyone in need, please let us know.

Thanks again to all our sponsors, Jon Heywood and his entire staff and all the folks at Morris County GC for another successful championship! A special thank you to our local GCSAA representative, Kevin Doyle, for help with registration and Shaun Barry for the great photos as usual!

We look forward to seeing everyone next year, so stay tuned for announcements over the winter!

**Note: Please save the date for the Nor'easter Ski Day at Killington Mountain on February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020!!**

# Met Team Championship at Morris County Golf Club - Photos by Shaun Barry





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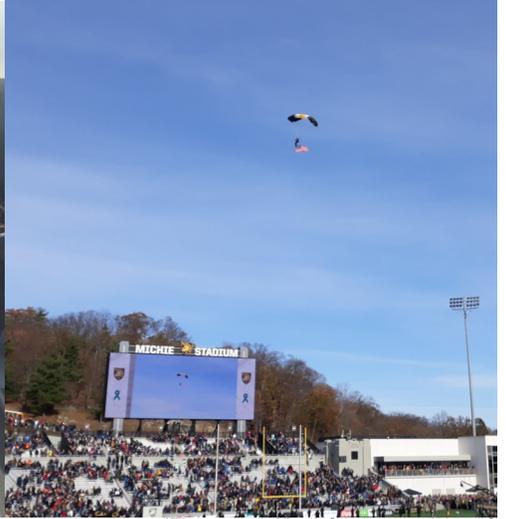
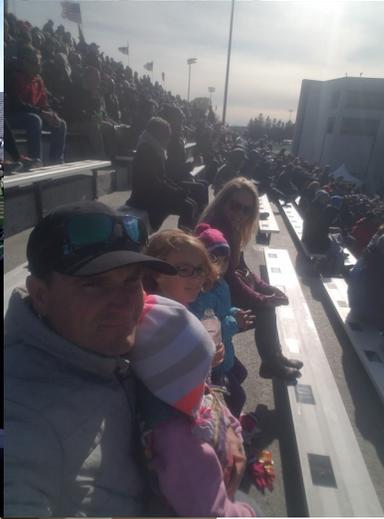
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# Tailgate at West Point with the MetGCSA



# Tailgate...continued



# Met Team Championship...Results

## Team Scores Par 280 (Ties broken by lowest gross scores, then net)

1 <sup>st</sup>	Connecticut AGCS	283
2 <sup>nd</sup>	GCSA of New England	296
3 <sup>rd</sup>	MetGCSA	296
4 <sup>th</sup>	Long Island GCSA	297
5 <sup>th</sup>	GCSA of Cape Cod	299
6 <sup>th</sup>	Pocono Turfgrass Association	299
7 <sup>th</sup>	GCSA of New Jersey	303
8 <sup>th</sup>	Philadelphia AGCS	305
9 <sup>th</sup>	Central New York GCSA	307
10 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Hudson Valley GCSA</b>	<b>309</b>
11 <sup>th</sup>	Northeastern GCSA	312
12 <sup>th</sup>	Rhode Island GCSA	334

## Skill Events

### Closest to the Pin

Hole #3, sponsored by Ocean Organics, Steve Stephens 1'-5" PAGCS

Hole #13, sponsored by Bayer, Eric DeStefano 5'-3" CAGCS

Hole #15, sponsored by Toro, Jason Criss 14'-6" PAGCA

Hole #17, sponsored by Koch T&O, Brian Bontemps 5'-9" Noble Turf

### Long Drive

Hole # 11: Gross Division sponsored by Syngenta Andrew Hannah – CAGCS

Hole # 11: Net Division sponsored by BASF, Steve Aspinall – Northeastern GCSA

Hole # 11: Sponsors Division sponsored by Plant Food, Matt Kerns – Plant Food

### Low Gross Team:

Luke Knutson & Shawn O'Sullivan from Long Island GCSA - Score of 71

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### **Wilfred MacDonald Inc.**

Turf Equipment Specialists  
Bill Luthin (C) 201-214-5901  
(O) 888-831-0891 (F) 201-487-1333  
[billy@wilfredmacdonald.com](mailto:billy@wilfredmacdonald.com)

### **Winfield Solutions, LLC**

*"Service, Solutions, Insight"*  
Mike DiLorenzo, CGCS: 518-428-8625  
[mwdilorenzo@landolakes.com](mailto:mwdilorenzo@landolakes.com)  
Rob Saunders: 203-249-5059  
[mwdilorenzo@landolakes.com](mailto:mwdilorenzo@landolakes.com)



# HVGCSA

## YEAR END SOCIAL EVENT

**Sloop Brewing Co. @ The Factory**

*755 East Drive #106, East Fishkill, NY 12533*

***Thursday, December 5<sup>th</sup>***

***Open Bar & Food***

***1:00pm - 3:00pm***

***All Members & Guests are Welcome!!***

***Fee: No Cost***

***To Register: Please reply to this email [sodowd@mqaqolf.org](mailto:sodowd@mqaqolf.org)***

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