

FOREGROUND

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December 7, 2023

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Stony Point, NY



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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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President's Message

It's hard to believe Thanksgiving is over. 7 weekends of rain after Labor Day weekend into mid-October made this fall season one I'd much sooner forget. Part of me says, wow the season is about to be a wrap and yet, another part of me says it's about time. I know every one of our members of the association are tired and worn out from another interesting roller coaster ride of a golf season. Well, the winter season is underway. Irrigation systems are either winterized or very near winterized, snow mold preventive sprays are out or are going out as we speak, and renovation projects are full steam ahead. Wherever you fall on the spectrum, know that your peers are fighting a similar battle.

As we begin to think about the winter season, the association has a few events lined up for you. Recently, we had the annual joint tailgate with the MetGCSA at West Point. It was great to see so many friends enjoying a beautiful fall day for football. The cadets squeezed out a slim victory! Up next is our annual year end social event December 7th at Patriot Hills lounge. This event is free to all members and guests, where we say thank you for being you! Then we have our Annual Meeting and Winter Seminar which will be held January 17th again at Resorts World Casino in Monticello. The committee has a star studded lineup for you to ensure you get your DEC credits! And the final winter event will be in Phoenix, where we partner with the MetGCSA for the Nor'Easter at the GCSAA Conference and Show or GIS or whatever it's now called. I just call it the National...

The Hudson Valley was well represented at the annual Met-Team Championship at Sunningdale Country Club placing 5th. Congrats boys, you put up a great fight. An anchor (I am not referring to pace of play) on that team is Steve Whipple who is our 2023 Worthington Cup Champion. Having posted a winning score that we are better off not sharing...congratulations Steve, you had quite the season of championships this year.

Thinking ahead...the board has selected most sites and dates for next year's events, so stay tuned to plug in your calendars. If you're interested in hosting an event in the coming years, please reach out to the board. We are always looking for new sites or going back to some of the classics.

I want to give a heartfelt thank you to all of our sponsors, all of the board members, the members of the association, Susan O'Dowd and all the other individuals who make this association great. I hope you enjoyed your Thanksgiving with family and friends and get to enjoy some down time. As this will be my last Presidents Message, wow 2 years have sure gone by fast, I want you all to know that the board and the association are in a great place. I also want to thank you all for your support during the past 2 years. It was a great experience serving the association and I will be helping out the new board for the next 2 years.

All the best,
Tim

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Philadelphia wins the MET Area Team Championship at Sunningdale Country Club



HV Team: Steve Whipple, Will O'Brien, Joe Meyer, Dave Lippman, Grover Alexander, Tim Walker, Dan Wilber, Jay Werbalowsky

On a beautiful fall day in New York, the team from the Philadelphia AGCS won the 42nd MET Area Team Championship at Sunningdale CC in Scarsdale, NY. Philadelphia, a perennial favorite won for a record 6th time, and their second time in the past 3 years, most recently at Saratoga National in 2021. The talented field was 2 over par for the day, 2 shots clear of New Jersey.

Philadelphia was led by Darren Farrar and Chet Walsh on the Gross side with an impressive 1 under par best ball score while Greg D'Antonio and Nick Lubold led the Net side with an even par 70. The entire team played excellent golf with Jeff Haas and Steve Stephens just 2 over on the Gross side and Jon Urban-ski and Rich Sweeney 1 over on the Net.

New Jersey came close this year, led by the day's lowest Net score of 64 by Joe Kinlin and Jason Oster-houdt and a 1 under Net from Chris Boyle and Ian Kunesch. Last year's defending champion from Long Island finished in third place just 3 back of New Jersey with the team of Tim Falvey and Jake Reeves shooting the day's lowest gross score of 3 under, 67! On the Sponsor's side of the championship, Brian Giblin and Pat Crusty shot 5 under 65 to best the second-place team from Toro, Keith Kohlasch and Glen Dube.

This year was host Sean Cain's second MET Area Team Championship as he hosted the event in 2001 and first since the 1917 Seth Raynor gem had been redone by Mike DeVries in 2017. Mike built bold new greens on the finishing three holes that fit right into the existing design like they've always been there. The 17th is a completely new hole and the 18th an exciting finisher where any score is possible with the pressure of a championship on the line!

This year has been one of the wettest on record, including a couple inches of rain three days before the championship. Sean worked his magic though and had Sunningdale in tremendous conditions with picture perfect green surfaces rolling quickly and challenging even the best of players! Congratulations to Sean and his staff for providing championship conditions on a beautiful old classic!

This year with your support we were able to make 3 donations to help folks in our industry through difficult times. Sean Cain's employee, Otoniel Feliz Samboy suffered a tragedy no parent wants to go through



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Met Team Championship at Sunningdale CC...cont'd

when his 1-year-old son was fatally involved with a day-care in New York. We raised \$2,500 at this year's championship to donate to Otoniel's family. Two assistants from the Pocono Association's Fox Hill Golf Club were involved in a serious accident this summer when heavy rain washed out a local bridge and the two drove over together and suffered serious injuries. We were able to donate \$1,000 each to John Polak and Joe Colangelo to help with their medical bills. Thanks to all who donated so generously to the 50/50's over the years!!

Once again, the Met Area Team Championship is generously supported by our 7 major sponsors who continue to step up to make this one of the best events across the country! Please join me in thanking Allied Nutrients, BASF, Envu, Ocean Organics, Plant Food, Syngenta and Toro as they continue to support this fantastic event.

Thanks again to all our sponsors, Sean Cain and his entire staff, and all the folks at Sunningdale CC for another successful championship! A special thank you to our local GCSAA representative Kevin Doyle for help with registration and our resident photographer Shaun Barry for the great photos that can be found at <https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjAZefp>. We look forward to seeing everyone next year, so stay tuned for announcements and of course, if you're no longer the contact please let me know who is!

Andy Drohen

Photos by: Shaun Barry





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Hudson Valley News of Interest!

By: Kevin Collins



Our host on October 3rd for the Worthington Cup, Leewood Super Tim Walker, recorded a hole-in-one at Maidstone Club in the Hamptons a few weeks back. Congratulations Tim!



Powelton GC Super Mike Aube has a new hobby. He's raising goats. Mike built this goat enclosure next to the maintenance facility. He started with three goats but is now down to two. Sadly, someone left the gate open and one of the goats escaped. Mike found the goat's carcass out on the course after it was devoured by a pack of coyotes. Mike's crew made a stew with what the coyotes didn't finish.



Patriot Hills Super Evan Weymouth, seen here with Baby Ariana, made the cover of Sollybaby Magazine in September. Evan's better half, Sally, has a stake in a company that makes child restraint halters. A national ad campaign is in the works. Exciting stuff!



Haworth Super Tim Garceau, seen here teeing off at Quaker Hill during the HVGCSA September meeting, is a study in golf swing fundamental perfection. Unfortunately, Tim hoseled this tee shot in to the parking lot where it struck QHCC member Lori Finck as she was walking to the clubhouse. Lori laid there, unconscious, for a good half hour until she came through. No first aid was administered as nobody likes Lori Finck.



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Hudson Valley GCSA Winter Educational Seminar

Resorts World Casino, Monticello, NY

Wednesday, January 17, 2024

- 7:30 - 8:30 Registration & Breakfast Buffet
- 8:30 - 9:30 Welcome Introduction & HVGCSA
Annual Business Meeting
- 9:30-10:30 **Elliot Dowling**, USGA
Data Collection & Year in Review
- 10:30-11:00 Coffee Break
- 11:00-12:00 **Elizabeth Lamb, Ph.D.**, Cornell University
What's new in invasive pests of ornamentals
- 12:00 - 1:00 Lunch Break
- 1:00 - 2:00 **Dr. Ben McGraw**, Penn State
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wicked insects.
- 2:00 - 3:00 **Joseph Almanza**, NYS DEC
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- 3:00 - 4:00 Cocktail Reception

Credits - TBD



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Criteria:

1. Must be a Class A, B or C member of the Hudson Valley GCSA and be in good standing
2. Must be active within the Association
3. Have not attended the GCSAA Conference & Show within the past 5 years
4. Must submit a brief essay as to how the trip will benefit you and your facility.

Due by December 31, 2023

5. Must submit a written article outlining your experience for the Foreground Newsletter

*Winner will be chosen by the Board of Directors

* The Chosen candidate will not be eligible for another 5 years

Upcoming Events

Year End Social

December 7, 2023
Patriot's Lounge
Stony Point, NY

MetGCSA Winter Seminar & Trade Show

January 10, 2024
Westchester CC
Rye, NY

HVGCSA Educational Seminar Annual Meeting/Elections

January 17, 2024
Resorts World Casino
Monticello, NY

GCSAA Conference & Trade Show

January 27 - Feb 1, 2024
Phoenix, AZ



Wet & Slippery Conditions

By: Evan Weymouth

What a season for the Hudson Valley! No year is ever the same, with each having a new set of challenges. We went from one of the driest years on record in 2022, to one of the wettest years in 2023. Yet, our members in the Hudson Valley have stayed strong and were there to help their fellow superintendents/members when needed.

The skid marks, ample ball marks, and numerous divots were just a few of the effects from the wet conditions. Just ask fellow superintendent Tim Walker, who has documented well the divot travesty during 2023.

It seemed like pulling equipment out of the woods, bunkers, and swampy areas became a weekly routine while trying to maintain playing conditions. You quickly learn the weight of a 300-gallon sprayer while you are sliding downhill saying "I knew I shouldn't have tried that today." After Labor Day, I probably lost more water in irrigation breaks than I actually did having to use the system. Aerifying, well that was another nightmare for some. Either getting rained out multiple times or trying to push through and deal with the cleanup.

However, we made it to the finish line. So, let's hope next season we can find the middle ground between rain & drought.

In the words of an iconic All-American....You Gotta Keep on Keepin' on!



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Quaker Hill Meeting...recap



Although the weather was dreary, it turned out to be a wonderful day on top of the hill for all that attended. Many thanks to Kevin Collins for setting up the event and treating us to great hospitality.

The course was in great shape thanks to Gary, Andrew, and the staff. I would also like to thank Tony the Pro for his help with scoring and awarding the prizes

and to Rich and Cassie for the excellent spread of food and drinks. It's certainly a drive for many to attend, but once you experience Quaker Hill you realize it was well worth it.

Results: (due to rain delays we had 9-hole & 18-hole results)

9-Hole

Low Net: Greg Moran, Valley Green (34)(match of cards)

2nd Low Net: Ryan Avery, Grass Roots (34)

18 -Hole

Low Net: Blake Halderman, Brae Burn CC (65)

2nd Low Net: Kevin Doyle, GCSAA (68)

3rd Low Net: Dan Wilber, Millbrook G &T (70)

Closest to Pin #6: Blake Halderman - 8'5"

Closest to Pin #18: Steve Whipple - 11' 1"

Appreciation awards for the ladies that braved the conditions and finished 18 holes went to Susan, Robin & Kelly.

Cheers
Matt



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Quaker Hill Country Club - September Meeting



Celebrating Members Who Have Molded Our Associations

By: Kevin Doyle, GCSAA Northeast Rep

I have the opportunity to spend time with a lot of members of our association and great people in our industry as part of my duties as your Field Staff representative. One such interaction near the beginning of my employment has stuck with me many years later thanks to the effort of one Northeast region association.

This particular event in my past was the Finger Lakes Association of Golf Course Superintendents Elmer J Michaels Scholarship and Research Tournament. I had the pleasure of spending the day with Joe Hahn, a legend in the golf and turf industry in New York, and a true gentleman. If you were to spend some time researching Hahn's background you would undoubtedly be impressed. I distinctly remember a tweet I



2023 GCSA of New England Chapter Championship event retiree photo

sent out later stating "our industry is where it is today because of the Joe's of the past".

Why do I reminisce of such an event? The GCSA of New England takes the opportunity to celebrate the members who have molded their association over the years at their Chapter Championship event. Recognizing each retired participant, complete with first-tee-at-Augusta style bio, is a tremendous gesture and one that is obviously appreciated by everyone in attendance.

In addition, the golf portion of the day has a category to decide the supremacy of the retired division. I'm sure if I were to run down the GCSA of New England Past-President's list or Distinguished Service Award winners, many of those in attendance this year at Marlborough Country Club would be on one list or both. The state of the industry, and most associations, is not what it was "back in the day." The superintendents charged with leading our profession at any point have had to make changes and adapt to any number of challenges. Consider recognizing your retired members for their accomplishments in whatever fashion you can before it is too late. Remember, our industry and profession is where it is today, because of the dedication and hard work they all did for us yesterday.

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Leewood Golf Club Hosted the 2023 Worthington Cup

By: Kevin Collins

Leewood Golf Club and Superintendent Tim Walker hosted the Worthington Cup on October 3rd. The Worthington Cup is named after Ed Worthington Jr. (Westchester CC Superintendent Dave Dudones' grandfather). There is some great history here.

Dave's great-grandfather, C.C. Worthington, was an inventor and an avid golfer who, in 1907, hired his good friend A.W. Tillinghast to design and build his first golf course, Shawnee CC, located in Shawnee-On-Delaware, PA. Worthington, after being shown a homemade gang mower by Tillinghast, tinkered and improved upon the design and formed the Worthington Mower Company. The company, which provided high quality tractors and mowers for commercial use, was eventually sold to Jacobsen in the mid-1940's.

Dave's grandfather, Ed Worthington Jr., founded the Ed Worthington Corp. (a turfgrass supply business in Saranac Lake, NY) in the 1940's. Ed would travel the Hudson Valley in a station wagon selling chemicals, fertilizer, and seed to the local superintendents. Ed was literally the first "Lesco" and was beloved by his customers. After Ed retired the HVGCSA honored Ed by establishing an annual tournament in his name. And here we are.

All About Tim:



Tim grew up in Reading, PA and got into turf at a young age. "My step-dad Pat owned a landscaping company so I started off working with him," Tim remembered, "At age 16, I got a job working at Exeter CC in Reading. First it was washing golf carts and before long I was working on the maintenance crew. I thought at that point that I could make a career out of it."

Tim enrolled at Penn State in pursuit of a four-year turf degree. His first internship was at the iconic Oakland Hills in 1999. In 2000, Tim interned at Siwanoy Club for Dave Mahoney. Tim enjoyed his time at Siwanoy and made it his goal to return to the area one day as a Superintendent.

Tim's professional career got off to a rocky start. "My first 2nd Assistant's job was at Medford Village CC in NJ working for Bruce Rickert and it didn't go well," laughed Tim, "I lasted all of two months before I quit. I took a job at Scott's Lawn Care for a couple of months just to make some money. In the fall of 2001 I got another assistant's position working at Little Mill CC in Evesham Township, NJ. That didn't last too long either."

Tim decided to go back to Pennsylvania and secured a Superintendent's position working at Abington CC in Jenkintown, PA. By 2002 he was given the responsibility of maintaining both Abington and Twin Woods, a 9-hole course in Hatfield, PA. In 2005, Tim left Abington and worked solely at Twin

Woods. In 2010, Tim moved on, for a brief time, to Skippack Golf Club in Skippack, PA.

In 2011 Tim moved back to NJ, definitely closer to Westchester County, running the show at Meadows Golf Club in Lincoln Park, NJ. "Everything was going great until Hurricane Irene hit in August. The course flooded which killed a lot of the grass so the next year plus was all about rebuilding and re-grassing the property."

In 2013 Tim finally made it back to New York, albeit not Westchester County, but he was getting closer. "I took the Super's position at Winding Hills in Montgomery, NY. It was a good job, I worked about 45 hours a week so it wasn't all that bad," Tim laughed. The long and winding road was about to end. In January of 2014, Tim was hired as superintendent at Leewood Golf Club in Eastchester, NY.

Leewood has been in renovation mode since Tim arrived with many projects completed to improve the course.

This past March, Tim married his long-time girlfriend Patty at Pebble Beach Golf Club. The ceremony was held adjacent to the 18th green. Tim and Patty live in Bronxville with their daughter Reagan, 18½ years young.

Tim loves to spend free time with Patty & Reagan and his children Ashley and Eric. And some of that free time is spent traversing the beautiful Hudson River. Tim purchased a 25' Larson that sleeps four. He has it moored at Half Moon Bay Marina in Croton-On-Hudson. The family loves to explore the mighty Hudson with its many historic towns and tributaries.

This is Tim's final year as President of the HVGCSA. He is leaving the association in solid financial shape and in good hands with a very solid BOD.

Leewood Golf Club:



Continued.....page 20



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Leewood Meeting...continued

Leewood GC opened for play in 1924. This Devereux Emmet design fits nicely into a property that is less than 100 acres. Local Met professional Marty Bohen once referred to Leewood as "the toughest short course I ever played".

Movie producer DW Griffiths was among the club's founders. South African pro Bobby Locke called it home. But, without a doubt, Leewood's most famous member was Babe Ruth.

His memory is celebrated in the "Babe Ruth Room", a lounge off the men's locker room full of his pictures and memorabilia. "The Babe" was so proud of being a Leewood member, he placed a trophy he won at the club in 1937 in his space at the Baseball Hall of Fame. Word has it that the underpass leading to the Bronx River Parkway near Leewood was built expressly for the Babe to make a quick getaway to Yankee Stadium.

During Tim's tenure at the club many projects have been completed. The course has been lengthened to 6400 yards. Other improvements include new tees, greens expansions, cart paths, steps to the tees, landscaping, tree planting, native areas, waterfalls, a new practice green plus a complete bunker renovation.

Kevin Collins

Leewood Meeting & Worthington Cup Results:

Congratulations to **Steve Whipple**, West Point Golf Course (83) winner of the 2023 Worthington Cup (Note: You have to be a member to qualify for the Cup)

Low Gross: Steve Loughran, Central Turf & Irrigation (76)

Low Net: Jarad Luknicki, BASF (71)

Long Drive: Reese Wasson, Osiris Golf Club

Closest to Pin #9: Dave Peterson, Silvermine Golf Club - 6'4"

Closest to Pin #13: Steve Loughran, Central Turf & Irrigation - 20'2"

Thank you to all our sponsors for their support and to all the members & guests that came out to support the association.

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GCSAA Chapter Delegate Meeting, October 24-25, 2023

Kansas City, MO and Lawrence, KS

CEO Rhett Evans discussed the growth of GCSAA in the last year. There are now over 20,000 members. He then briefed the delegates on the state of GCSAA with membership numbers and a financial update.

- Membership Numbers – Total membership is now over 20,000, up 3.18% from 2023, with Class A and Equipment Managers leading the way.
- Financial Update – Evans noted that the pandemic, inflation, and high interest rates have created financial challenges with all organizations and GCSAA isn't immune. However, due to the strong financial stewardship of past GCSAA Boards and prudent financial management by staff leadership, the association remains resilient.

GCSAA generates revenue from the following: 42% Industry | 26% Member Dues | 6% Reserve Funds | 17% User Fees (e.g., registration) | 5% Foundation and Other Sources | 4% Other (HQ lease, bookstore/merchandise)

GCSAA puts the funds to work on the following: 29% Education, Advocacy, Publications, Environmental Programs | 28% Conference and Trade Show | 16% Member and Chapter Programs | 9% Marketing and Branding; Outreach and Communications | 18% Support & Administrative, Occupancy, Depreciation. Evans said that a relentless focus has allowed GCSAA to be able to start replacing reserve funds utilized during the pandemic.

Government Affairs Update

Chava McKeel, director, government affairs, gave an update on GCSAA advocacy efforts on the key issues impacting the golf industry, including recent proposed changes to pesticide regulation in relation to the Endangered Species Act (ESA). She also discussed the importance of the Grassroots Ambassador Program and presented awards to the chapters who helped raise funds for the GCSAAPAC Chapter Challenge. McKeel recognized grassroots ambassadors who were in attendance and their recent engagement with members of Congress.

Key points of her presentation:

- The U.S. EPA is trying to come into compliance with its obligations under the Endangered Species Act. In doing so, they have proposed an ESA Workplan and several pilots that could significantly affect the way superintendents are allowed to use pesticides in the future. It is very important GCSAA members watch the ESA 101 webinar in the GCSAA Learning Hub to learn more—GCSAA (interactyx.com)
- GCSAA members can stay on top of the association's government affairs efforts (and get education points) by watching the Government Affairs Quarterly Briefings. The next one is scheduled for December 12.
- The Government Affairs team is looking for GCSAA members to serve as Grassroots Ambassadors. There are more Congressional districts open that need an Ambassador because the country just went through redistricting (the process by which state legislatures redraw political boundaries every 10 years following the decennial U.S. Census). Please reach out to Michael Lee at mlee@gcsaa.org to learn more about the program.
- Thank you to the 36 GCSAA chapters who helped raise \$4,515 for GCSAAPAC. The Metropolitan GCSA brought in the most dollars and the Indiana GCSA brought in the most dollars per member. The Chapter Challenge will be back next year. To learn more about how GCSAAPAC dollars are used, please visit: <https://www.gcsaa.org/advocacy/get-involved/gcsaapac>

GCSAA Chapter Delegate Meeting.....continued

First Green, Workforce and Career Development

Leann Cooper, senior manager, First Green and workforce development, gave an update. She focused on the need to bring new people into the profession, provide professional development opportunities to upskill existing staff and career resources to assist members in achieving their goals.

- Providing avenues into the profession. GCSAA is focused on both long-range and short-range strategies to bring new people into the workforce. Long-range strategies include youth outreach avenues such as First Green, FFA and Jobs for America's Graduates. The Short-range strategies have to do with providing training and resources for current crew members to help them advance up the ranks. GCSAA has job descriptions, tips on hiring and the job board for those that need immediate assistance.
- Career Assistance. GCSAA is focused on the career success of its members through a variety of programs and services including career development certificates and career guidance services.

Cooper finished her session by encouraging the delegates to reach out to her with questions or ideas for future initiatives to help meet their labor needs.

Candidate Presentations

The delegates had the opportunity to meet and question the candidates running for the 2024

GCSAA Board of Directors. The candidates are:

Officer positions

- For President: Jeff L. White, CGCS
- For Vice President: T.A. Barker, CGCS
- For Secretary/Treasurer: Paul L. Carter, CGCS and Douglas D. Dykstra, CGCS

Director positions - Four members are on the slate to fill two open director positions:

- Gregory B. Jones, CGCS, MG
- Ryan Kraushofer, CGCS
- Christopher A. Reverie
- Marc E. Weston, CGCS

There are two open director positions for two-year terms. The terms of Dykstra and Weston are

expiring. If Dykstra is not elected to the Secretary/Treasurer position, he will need to run from the floor for an open director position to remain on the board.

If Carter is elected to the Secretary/Treasurer position, then a third person will need to be elected to fulfill the one remaining year on his term.

Kevin P. Breen, CGCS, will serve on the board for one year as immediate past president. Mark F. Jordan, CGCS, retires from the board after service the last year as immediate past president.

Additional Topics

Many other topics were discussed by chapter delegates in conjunction the GCSAA Board of Directors, they include but were not limited to:

BMP's are of vital importance nationwide in order to demonstrate the golf industry's commitment to environmental stewardship. The GCSAA website already has a template in place for every state and member facility.

Rounds 4 Research provides an excellent opportunity to raise money not only for research but for each local chapter.

The 2024 GCSAA Conference and Trade Show will be held in Phoenix, AZ and continues to be transformed into an interactive experience attendees won't find anywhere else. There will be 88 seminars, 23 power hours, and 7 interactive facility tours, along with many other programs and tradeshow booths. Registration is now open at www.gcsaaconference.com

If any members would like further information on additional topics and issues covered at the delegates meeting please feel free to contact me.

Reese Wasson
Osiris Golf Club



HVGCSA

YEAR END SOCIAL EVENT

Patriot Lounge
19 Clubhouse Lane, Story Point, NY

Thursday, December 7th

Food & Open Bar

Golf Simulators & Axe Throwing

12:00 - 2:00pm

All Members & Family are Welcome!!

Fee: No Cost

To Register: Email sodowd@mgagolf.org

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