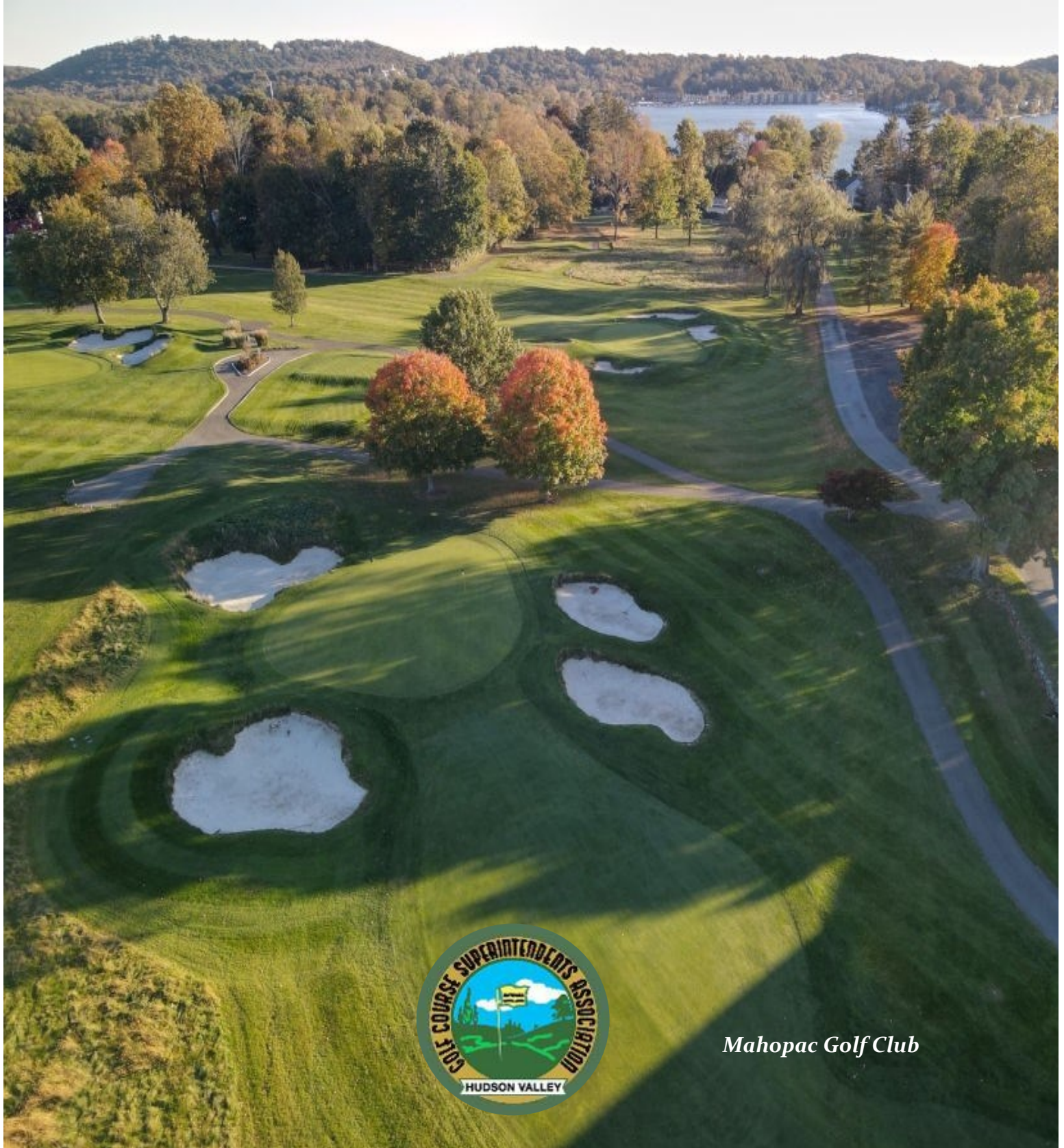


FOREGROUND

VOL. 59 NO. 5 Published by Hudson Valley Golf Course Superintendents Association September 2022



Mahopac Golf Club

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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



September came in roaring...many have received much anticipated rainfall and regrowth of turf areas are coming along. It is hard to believe fall is here. I know it has been a long season and everyone is looking forward to a quick fall and long winter!

It was great to see many members at the Links at Union Vale for the annual NYSTA Challenge. Chris Strehl and his staff always has the course in great shape. I am looking forward to seeing everyone at Villa Roma on September 22nd and Mahopac Golf Club on October 3rd. It has been a long time since we have been to these clubs and I know most people are looking forward to playing there.

Don't forget to submit for the Big Ticket Giveaway, a free trip to the Golf Industry Show. The deadline is September 30th.

All the best,

Tim

GOLF COURSE ENVIRONMENTAL PROFILE

Growing awareness about the positive environmental impact of golf courses

The Phase 3 Property Profile and Environmental Stewardship Practices survey is open Sept. 1 through Oct. 17

The Golf Course Environmental Profile, Phase III began in the fall of 2021 with the Water Use and Management Practices Survey, was followed by the Nutrient and Pest Management Survey and continues with the Property Profile and Environmental Stewardship Practices survey. All superintendents, including non-GCSAA members, should participate in this critical survey and to ensure that the profession and industry are well represented by all course types, budget levels and locations. *Note: individual survey responses are not disclosed nor does GCSAA sell email addresses.*

How to participate

Superintendents should check their email inboxes or spam filters for an email sent on GCSAA's behalf by the National Golf Foundation (NGF) for their individual access to the survey. The data from the survey will provide much-needed facts that enable GCSAA to advocate on behalf of the profession and industry to maintain the resources needed to ensure success. Without the data, we can't provide the facts behind what we say about golf's and the superintendents' professionalism and environmental stewardship. If you did not receive the email, you can still access the survey Sept. 1 through Oct. 17 linked below:

[**Take the survey »**](#)

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Villa Roma Resort to Host the September Meeting



Will O'Brien (left) and his Assistant Joe Meyer

Will O'Brien and Villa Roma will welcome the HVGCSA on September 22nd for their September Meeting & Met Team Qualifier.

The Villa Roma golf course is one of the newest in the Catskills. Opened in 1986, the 18-hole Course is designed as a Par 71, 6,499-yard course for experts and 6,200 - 6,350 yards for beginners, young golfers and women.

Will grew up down the road from Villa Roma Resort in Nar-

rowsburg, NY and graduated from SUNY Oneonta in 2010 with bachelor's in biology and chemistry and from Rutgers University with a degree in Golf Turf Management in 2012.

Started in the business at the Villa Roma Resort just as a summer employee and went onto to work as an assistant for Sunnybrook Golf Club in Norristown, PA., Metropolis County Club in Westchester and Bayonne Golf Club in NJ. In 2014 Will was hired as a superintendent at Tennanah Lake Golf & Tennis Club in Roscoe, NY where he spent a couple of years there before moving onto Villa Roma.

Will's love for golf stretches beyond the daily grind of course set up and mowing. He said, "it's about the science and technology that underlines how superintendents manage grass, as well as their staff and do the best with what they have and find new inventive ways, (might not always be the right way) to get the job done."

Getting the job done requires a good team, and Will couldn't be more thankful for his two assistants, Joe Meyer and Cody Bojo, and the rest of my hard-working staff members. Martin and Craig Passante, and Paul Carlucci (Owners) have always been supportive in his efforts in keeping the course alive and healthy.

Will quoted one of the past superintendents he worked for. "It's a marathon, not a sprint, Will. Keep it alive and you will be fine."

Hope to see you all at Villa Roma!

Susan O'Dowd

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NYSTA Challenge & HVGCSA August Meeting...recap

Another successful NYSTA Challenge was held on August 15th at The Links of Union Vale. Even though the HVGCSA piggy back's on this event for their monthly meeting, all the credit goes to Beth Seme and her team for their hard work that goes into running a great fundraiser and golf outing. Kudos to Chris Strehl and his crew for having the course in excellent condition considering the tough season we have had. Also, a big thank you to our past president and NYSTA's present president Steve Whipple for emceeding the event. It was a fun day!



Kevin Doyle, GCSAA - Northeast Rep

It is time for the changing of the seasons here in the region. Cultural practices are in full swing and cooler nights and lower sun angles bring hope of reduced turf stress. It's been a long and arduous season on leadership and staff alike. With those changes come changes in the daily routine. While reduction of some duties takes place, other more seasonal tasks increase.

Welcome to blower season. The increased use of blowers comes with inherent risks, if you are still lucky enough to be able to use them. Brand new gas-powered leaf blowers and lawn mowers will soon become scarce in California. In October 2021, Gov. Gavin Newsom signed a law banning the sale of gas-powered lawn mowers and leaf blowers. While California is not in the Northeast region, the desire by many to prohibit their use is widespread. Be aware that town, city and state efforts throughout the region have taken place recently with mixed success. If your town or city has banned their use, fines can be significant. If you are still able to use gas powered blowers, be aware of local noise ordinances that could limit their use. By adhering to regulations for short periods of time (delayed use in the early morning for instance), you may indeed keep the ability to use these valuable tools longer term. Be aware of efforts to limit their use and active in advocacy efforts to maintain their use. GCSAA has information available to assist in these advocacy efforts and I am available to help if needed.

Blowers are not a leaf-only related tool, most facilities use them year-round. Please be sure to reiterate the safety protocols needed for their as duration of blower use increases. Listening to loud noise for a long time can overwork hair cells in the ear, which can cause these cells to die. The hearing loss progresses as long as the exposure continues. Harmful effects might continue even after noise exposure has stopped. Damage to the inner ear or auditory neural system is generally permanent. Proper use of hear-

ing protection is not only essential, it is your duty as an employer to require its use. Yes, even if you must protect them from themselves. Hearing loss is a significant, irreversible condition and you have a duty of care to uphold.

Blower season is long, arduous, and stunningly lonely no matter how many operators are together while using them. Losing the ability to converse while the equipment operates can send employees looking for alternative entertainment while blowing leaves. Ensure there are noise cancelling pieces in place as music levels from earbuds or headphones with elevated volume to be heard over the equipment can be even more dangerous than the blowers themselves.

The widespread drought throughout the region has affected trees as much as turf. Early leaf drop has been typical, and the impact on our standard fall foliage will soon be revealed. Simply be mindful of the long-term impact these valuable tools can have and do all you can to protect your employees. As we have seen, finding help has become a challenge so let's all be sure to treat the staff we have as best we can!

Upcoming Education:

[Poa Annua Deep Dive](#)

Jim Brosnan, Ph.D.
Sept. 21 @ noon

[Putting Pest Maps to Work on Your Golf Course](#)

David McCall, Ph.D.,
Oct. 6 @ 10 a.m.

[Maximizing the Impact of Your Environmental Plan](#)

Anthony L. Williams, CGCS, CGM, MG
Oct. 12 @ noon

Again, if I can be of any assistance, please feel free to contact me.

Kevin Doyle

GCSAA Field Staff

kdoyle@gcsaa.org

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Hudson Valley News of Interest:

By: Kevin Collins



Is there anything better than getting a birthday greeting on the big screen at City Field? I think not!! Happy birthday Reese....



Hockey aficionado Chris Dyroff recently traveled to California for a tournament. Chris forgot to put his teeth in before this picture was taken in the locker room. He still looks good though.



Grill Master Evan Weymouth is enjoying his new house and the grill Sally bought him. Notice that nifty pineapple themed towel hanging on the grill, pretty cool. Notice also the deplorable state of his back yard with trees and shrubs growing into each other. Owning a house isn't all about grilling Evan. Get to work!!!



Jeff Newell is seen here enjoying his favorite pastime, drinking beer. He hasn't been to work in a month since he lost two fingers adjusting a reel. Get well my friend!!



Our man in Florida, Cal Fowx, is seen here with his best friend Rex. Rex had just swallowed Nancy's 12 karat diamond engagement ring. Call was spending some quality time with Rex before he cut him open to get the ring back.



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HVGCSA September Meeting

Met Team Qualifier



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Villa Roma Resort

Callicoon, NY 12723

Thursday, September 22, 2022

- Host:** Will O'Brien, GCS
- 9:30** Registration
- 10:30** **Golf:** Shotgun
Handicaps required when registering
- Lunch:** Box Lunch at the Turn
- 3:00** **Reception:** BBQ Dinner & Prizes
- Fee:** \$120 - Lunch, Golf, Dinner/1hr Open bar
\$ 60 - Dinner/Open Bar
- Dress Code:** Proper Golf Attire

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What a Summer.....

We saw a summer that pushed all golf courses to the max with their ability to irrigate and keep turf alive. Most of the Hudson Valley saw less than 1.5" rain all summer. Every week it seemed we were teased with the potential of rain that always disappeared. Then Labor Day truly marked the end of summer with 4-8" rain within an 8-day stretch.

The importance of knowing your irrigation water quality, ability to replenish holding ponds, and how to conserve water by minimizing water usage in non-priority turf became very clear this season. For those in Rockland County, we saw a drought restriction that has not been implemented in over two decades.

One of the true challenges early on was educating the golfers for the reason for constant afternoon watering and occasional cart path only days. Many golfers always think cart path only is a term used after heavy rains. This year we were forced to implement this a few times to save the quality of turf from drought and wear stress.

It has been amazing to watch the recovery of turf that was deemed "dead-dead". The flush of growth is like that of the Spring coming out of dormancy.

As we roll into the Fall, and into aerification season, I hope everyone was able to take a deep breath and recover over the past couple of weeks. The end of the season is in sight... as Joe Dirt would say "You gotta keep on keepin' on".

Evan Weymouth
Patriot Hills GC





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On Monday, October 3rd, Mahopac Golf Club and Superintendent, Jon Ferruccio, will host the HVGCSA's Worthington Cup.

This event is named for Ed Worthington Jr. (HVGCSA member Dave Dudones's grandfather) who started his own turf supply company in Saranac Lake, NY in the 1940's. Ed travelled around in his station wagon for decades, visiting golf courses and delivering products all over the state. Ed was very popular in the Hudson Valley. Many years ago, to honor him, the HVGCSA decided to name this tournament after Ed.

Mahopac Golf Club:

The origins of Mahopac Golf Club date back to 1893, when famed Scottish architect, Thomas Bendelow, designed a short 6-hole golf course on the east shore of Lake Mahopac. Five years later, the Mahopac Golf Club was born.

The course moved to the north shore of the lake in 1900 as a 9-hole, 2730-yard layout. In 1913, famed architect Devereux Emmet was brought in to expand the course to 18 holes.

Playing to a healthy 6523 yards, the course is characterized by its well bunkered greens and varied hole designs where a premium is placed on golf course management and shot-making abilities. You will use every club in your bag on this layout.

In 2004, architect Ken Dye was brought in to renovate certain aspects of the course. Bunkers were redone, new tees were built and water features were rerouted.

A new irrigation system is on tap and the club has been working with architect, Jeff Stein, on future course upgrades.

In 2006, the club renovated their lakefront property and now boasts a private beach as part of its offerings.

Jon Ferruccio:

Jon grew up in Somers, NY. Jon's dad, John, worked in the turfgrass industry selling equipment. Jon remembers his intro to what became his future calling.

"When I was 16 years old and school was over for the year, I was really looking forward to the summer and fooling around and having fun," Jon recalled. "My dad's first stop every morning was Mahopac Golf Club. My summer plans went out the window when my dad informed me that I'd be working at Mahopac that summer – on the crew."

After Mahopac, Jon worked at Putnam Golf Course for Rob Steinman. Future superintendents, Steve Spontak and Doug George were also on that crew.

In 1994, Jon returned to Mahopac to work for Scott Ferguson. That lasted until 1997 when Jon made a fateful decision.

"I decided to go to the next level and pursue an education in turfgrass management. I enrolled at SUNY Cobleskill in 1997."

Jon's next experiences were as an intern working for Lou Quick at Anglebrook. In 1999, fresh out of school, Jon was hired as a 2nd Assistant at Knollwood CC, working for Tim Moore. In short order, Jon moved up to 1st Assistant. In 2010, Jon was promoted to superintendent.

Jon's professional journey went full circle when he returned to work at Mahopac GC for the 2007 season as 1st Assistant. In 2010, Jon was promoted to superintendent.

The club, like many clubs in the area, was hurting for members and there were some lean years. That is until the Covid-19 pandemic. "Covid-19 rescued this club," Jon stated, "We're a lot healthier now and up to 240 members."

On a personal note, Jon has two lovely daughters, Jaylin (17) and Jordan (15).

So, there it is. We hope to see lots of HVGCSA members at this event. The food will be as great as the golf.

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Upcoming Meetings

September 22nd
Villa Roma
 (Met Team Qualifier)

October 3rd
Mahopac Golf Club
 (Met Team Qualifier)

October 17th
Met Team Championship
Lehigh Country Club
 Allentown, PA

November 19th
Tailgate Party at West Point
w/MetGCSA

December TBD
Year End Social Event
Billy Joe's Ribworks

HVGCSA October Meeting Met Team Qualifier



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Mahopac Golf Club

601 N Lake Blvd, Mahopac, NY 10541

Monday, October 3, 2022

Host: Jon Ferruccio, GCS

9:30 Registration

10:00 Lunch

11:00 **Golf:** Shotgun

****Handicaps required when registering****

3:30 **Reception:** Dinner & Prizes

Fee: \$100- Lunch, Golf, Dinner/1hr Open bar
 \$ 50 - Dinner/Open Bar

Dress Code: Proper Golf Attire

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