

# FOREGROUND

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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



When will the rain stop? I hope at the time this is being read we finally hit a dry stretch of weather. It's been quite an adventure to balance finding time to mow and aerify while keeping up with the expectations of our golfers. Blowing out my irrigation system has crossed my mind multiple times

while splashing through the fairways. However, the light is at the end of the tunnel, the golf season is nearing the end.

We hope to see you at Quaker Hill on Wednesday, September 16<sup>th</sup> for our Worthington Cup hosted by Andrew Carrol. Quaker has been a great host to the Hudson Valley for years and it's always a great day. Will Joe Meyer (Villa Roma) show up looking for a 3-peat or will someone else capture the cup this year?

Very soon the Hudson Valley GCSA will be opening an online store where our members can order **HVGSCA logo apparel and merchandise**. Several chapters around the country have already offered this to their membership and have had great success and participation of their memberships. For an idea of what this will look like please check out **GCSA of NY site**. <https://shopgcsaofny.com/>

Don't forget our last golf event of the year will be our rescheduled **Hudson Valley Cup at Powelton Club on Monday, October 19<sup>th</sup>**. We are keeping the registration from June the same. If you are unavailable to make that day, please notify us that you will not be able to attend. On the other hand, we hope it gives some more people the chance to attend that may not have signed up for the event back in June. Keep on, keepin' on

**Evan Weymouth**

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# HVGCSA September Meeting & Worthington Cup

## Hosted by Andrew Carroll & Quaker Hill Country Club

By: Kevin Collins



On Wednesday, the 16<sup>th</sup>, Quaker Hill CC will accommodate the HVGCSA for their September meeting. Our hosts are Superintendent/Facilities Manager Andrew Carroll and Head Golf Professional Tony Vos.

QHCC is a unique venue and a storied property. QHCC's founder and patriarch, Lowell Thomas, made it all possible. You can feel Lowell's presence whether you're in the clubhouse or playing the golf course. He left us 45 years ago in body, but not in spirit. He's still roaming the property. Here is a little bit of his history.

### Lowell Thomas

Lowell Jackson Thomas was an American writer, actor, broadcaster, and traveler, best remembered for introducing T.E. Lawrence (Lawrence of Arabia) to the world.

Thomas was born in 1892 in Woodington, Ohio. After graduating from Valparaiso University and the University of Denver with Bachelor and Master's degrees in education and science, Lowell taught oratory from 1912-1914 at the Chicago-Kent College of Law while simultaneously writing columns for the Chicago Journal. In 1916, he moved to New Jersey where he completed his studies and received another Master's degree at Princeton University before briefly joining the teaching staff there.

Lowell was a restless soul and yearned to be on the road. He reveled in new experiences and adventures and was a relentless self-promotor. He would persuade railroads to give him free passage in exchange for articles extolling rail travel. When visiting Alaska, he hit on the idea of the travelogue, movies about faraway places.

When the United States entered World War 1, President Wilson sent him and others to Europe to "compile a history of the conflict". The war was not popular in the US and Thomas was sent to find material to encourage the American people to support it. Lowell did not merely want to write about the war,

he wanted to film it.

Thomas and cameraman Harry Chase first went to the Western Front and then Italy without finding much "inspiration" for the American people. In Italy, he heard of British General Allenby's campaign against the Ottoman Empire. With the permission of the British Foreign Office, Thomas and Chase headed to the Middle East.

In Jerusalem Thomas met T.E. Lawrence, a captain in the British Army stationed there. Lawrence was financing the inhabitants of Palestine to rebel against the Turks. Thomas and Chase spent several weeks with Lawrence in the desert. Lawrence agreed to provide Thomas with material on the condition that he interview and photograph Arab leaders and tell their side of the story.

When Thomas returned to the states, the dramatic footage of Lawrence morphed into a

U.S. lecture tour on the war in Palestine "supported by moving pictures of veiled women, Arabs in their picturesque robes, camels and dashing Bedouin cavalry." Lowell's lectures were very popular and audiences large and he "took the nation by storm." The lecture tour subsequently moved to London where Thomas enthralled the British public for the next six months.

During his long and distinguished career Thomas was a teacher, journalist, magazine editor, radio commentator and broadcaster (many of his broadcasts were transmitted from the barn at Quaker Hill), television news anchor, "Movietone" news anchor for Twentieth Century Fox, and a prolific author, penning over 50 books. He is a recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, our nation's highest civilian honor. Lowell was a national institution. His radio program lasted 46 years. "When I started, I had the world to myself," Lowell once remarked, "Cronkite was nine, Brinkley was five, Reasoner was a two-year old. And the rest of them weren't even born."

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# HVGCSA September Meeting & Worthington Cup....cont'd

Thomas and his wife Frances purchased their first house on Quaker Hill in 1926. Their home, known as "Cloverbook", was a thirty-seven-room wood frame house on Quaker Hill Road. In 1936, to stave off developers who wanted to purchase and subdivide the 2000 acre French Estate on "The Hill", Lowell bought the property himself. While surveying the land one day on horseback he came to a hilltop where one could see 40 miles in every direction. "What a spot for a golf course," Lowell exclaimed. Enlisting the help of Architect Robert Trent Jones and golf legend and friend Gene Sarazen, work commenced. \$80,000 and one year later the course opened for play. The year was 1941.

Lowell Thomas passed away in 1981. He was a friend and confident to numerous US Presidents and world leaders. He was also a great friend to all who knew him. Lowell was very grounded, loved life, and enjoyed a good party. Long time Quaker Hill member Ross Nichols remembered throwing a Halloween party at his Pawling house. On October 30<sup>th</sup>, Lowell and his wife, in full costume and one day early, showed up at the Nichols home ready to party. Needless to say, Ross had two Halloween parties that year.

## Quaker Hill CC

Upon completion of the golf course, Gene Sarazen remarked, "In time, as it matures, Quaker Hill will be recognized as being as fine a course as any."

The layout hasn't changed much over the years. The greens complexes are the original designs that RTJ drew up in 1940, minus a trap or two.

The course plays to a par 70 and is a little over 6000 yards.

The greens are small and undulating and hard to hit. The fairways slope left to right and right to left and uphill and downhill to provide the golfer with every imaginable type of lie.

There's not a bad hole on the course and you'll never tire playing this little gem.

Even though Quaker is a 9-hole layout, RTJ's brilliance in locating and building the tees makes both nines play much differently.

## About Andrew



Andrew was born in 1991 and raised in the town of Pleasant Valley, NY. His parents, Charlie and Barbara Carroll, were both school teachers. Charlie taught music and Barbara taught elementary education and for a brief while, physical education. Andrew has an older sister Rebecca and a younger brother Timothy.

Upon graduating high school, Andrew enlisted in the Marines. Andrew served five years. "I did four deployments while in the Marines," Andrew said, "The first was in Cuba. I was stationed at Gitmo. Cuba was a paradise. I had guard duty for eight hours a day and training but loved the

island. It was like vacation. My second deployment was in Bahrain (an island country in the eastern part of the Arabian Peninsula near the western shore of the Persian Gulf). That was a staging area before we were deployed to Yemen. Yemen was in the middle of a civil war and we were deployed to protect the American Embassy. We got shot at occasionally but nothing too crazy. My 4<sup>th</sup> deployment was in Afghanistan. I spent 6 months there. We patrolled, fought, dropped some bombs and the like."

It was during his stint in the Marines that Andrew began working at QHCC. "I had leave twice after I joined the Marines so for 2 summers starting in 2007, I worked on the maintenance crew at Quaker," said Andrew, "I liked the work. I worked for Gary Lattrell. Gary is a great guy. He could be tough but I learned a lot."

In 2023, Andrew was appointed by the club to the superintendent's position. Andrew is only the 4<sup>th</sup> superintendent in the club's 86-year history. His mentor, Gary Lattrell, was the superintendent for over 40 years. Gary worked part time at the club through 2025 to assist with Andrew's transition. But, from spring 2023 on, it was Andrew's show. Andrew is also the Facilities Manager. He's in charge of all the goings-on in the clubhouse and on the property.

Andrew has a singular focus when it comes to the golf course. "I really value consistency," Andrew said, "I want to provide great and consistent conditions to the membership every day." Andrew is able to provide those conditions with the help of a talented crew.

Assistant Superintendent Robin Silvernail began working at QHCC in high school. Robin obtained her turf degree at URI and, after a stint working at Salem Golf Club, returned to the club a number of years ago. Robin's mom Kelly has also been a mainstay on the crew for many years. Nate Osborne rounds out the full-time team which is augmented in the summer with part-time help.

Andrew married his girl Claudia in 2023. Andrew and Claudia met at Dutchess Community College where Andrew graduated with an Associate's Degree in Liberal Arts. Andrew and Claudia have two daughters Olivia-4, and Eleanor-1. They also have an adorable French Bulldog, Penelope who just celebrated her 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday. Olivia likes to leave the door open for Penelope to escape the house. It's a habit Andrew is trying to cure her of.

Andrew is looking for a big turnout and he's got a great day planned for the HVGCSA's membership. We'll see you on the 16<sup>th</sup>!!

**By: Kevin Collins**



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# Native Plants, Wildlife, and the Golf Course Experience

By: Kevin Doyle, GCSAA NE Representative



For many golfers, some of the most enjoyable moments on the course happen between shots. A butterfly drifting across the fairway, a bumblebee working its way through a patch of wildflowers, a hawk circling overhead, or a family of ducks moving across a pond can turn an ordinary round into an experience that connects golfers with the natural world.

Golf courses provide valuable habitat for pollinators and wildlife, particularly when native plants and trees are incorporated into the landscape. Native species are adapted to local soil, climate, and seasonal conditions, and they provide food, shelter, nesting sites, and other resources that wildlife needs throughout the year. Native flowering plants offer nectar and pollen for bees, butterflies, moths, and other insects, while native trees and shrubs can provide berries, seeds, cavities, and cover for birds and small mammals.

Healthy native plant communities also contribute to the long-term sustainability of the golf course itself. They can help stabilize soil, reduce erosion, filter stormwater, support beneficial insects, and create attractive natural areas that require less intensive management once established. A diverse landscape is also more resilient to pests, disease, and changing environmental conditions.

Unfortunately, many golf courses throughout the Northeast also contain invasive plants that can crowd out native vegetation and reduce habitat value. Some examples include garlic mustard, Japanese knotweed, multiflora rose, bush honeysuckle, autumn olive, and invasive burning bush. Invasive trees such as Norway maple can also dominate woodland edges and shaded areas, limiting the growth of native plants beneath them.

Managing invasive species is most successful when problems are identified early and addressed consistently. Small infestations may be controlled through hand-pulling, digging, or repeated cutting before plants produce seeds. Larger infestations may require mowing, targeted mechanical removal, or carefully applied herbicides. Removing invasive plants is only part of the process; disturbed areas should be monitored and replanted with appropriate native species so that invasive plants do not simply return. Planning now for frosty morning projects or off-season efforts can help ensure removal of invasives are achieved efficiently.

You do not have to tackle these challenges alone! Partnering with local environmental organizations, conservation groups, native-plant societies, watershed associations, and municipal conservation commissions can provide tremendous benefits. These organizations often bring knowledge of local ecosystems, invasive-species identification, native-plant selection, volunteer

*Continued...page 12*

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## Native Plants, Wildlife, and the Golf Course Experience...cont'd

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networks, educational resources, and opportunities for grants or community projects.

Such partnerships can turn habitat improvement into a shared community effort. Volunteers might help remove invasive plants, establish pollinator gardens, monitor wildlife, or educate golfers about the species they encounter on the course. The result is more than a beautiful landscape—it is a healthier ecosystem and a stronger connection between the golf course and the surrounding community.

The next time you see a bee hovering over a wildflower or a log in the pond covered with sunning turtles, take a moment to appreciate it. These encounters are reminders that a golf course can be more than a place to play the game. With thoughtful stewardship, our courses can also become places where native plants thrive, wildlife finds refuge, and golfers enjoy a closer connection to nature.

### [Melrose Leadership Academy elevates your career](#)

#### **Apply by Sept. 15**

Up to 20 GCSAA Class A or B members will be selected to attend the 2027 GCSAA Conference and Trade Show. The selection criteria takes into account qualifications, interest and financial need, and to the extent possible, will be focused on less experienced superintendents who will benefit most from the educational opportunity.

#### **Participants receive**

- All Access Registration.
- Hotel accommodations.
- Round-trip airfare or mileage reimbursement.
- \$200 travel stipend.
- Tailored educational sessions.
- Networking events with GCSAA leadership, industry leaders, and certified peers.
- A broad understanding of issues facing the golf industry and learn to advocate for their profession.

Earn education points.

#### **Eligibility requirements**

- Must be a current GCSAA Class A or B member and GCSAA Chapter member in good standing.
- Class A or B members working for current members of the GCSAA Board of Directors or Foundation Board of Trustees, and children of GCSAA staff members are not eligible for the Melrose Leadership Academy.
- Past recipients are not eligible.

Attendees of the GCSAA Conference and Trade Show in 2026, 2025, 2024, 2023, and 2022 are not eligible to apply.

[Apply Here](#)

*Continued...page 14*



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### **Participants will**

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    - o \$200 travel stipend
    - o Gain a broad understanding of issues facing the golf industry and learn to advocate for their profession.
    - o Earn education points.
    - o Provide enhanced value to their facility.
- Financial support to complete the Equipment Management Certificate.

### **Eligibility requirements**

- Must be a current Class EM member.
- Must not have attended the GCSAA Conference and Trade Show in the previous two years (2026 or 2025).
- Past recipients are not eligible.
- Active Equipment Manager Task Group volunteers are not eligible.

EM members working for current members of the GCSAA Board of Directors or the GCSAA Foundation Board of Trustees and immediate family of GCSAA staff members are not eligible.

[Apply Here](#)

## **Upcoming Meetings**

### **September Meeting & Worthington Cup**

Quaker Hill Golf Club  
September 16<sup>th</sup>

**Met Team  
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**HV Cup**  
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# Hudson Valley News of Interest

By: Kevin Collins



Fisher & Sons Mike Weber recently got a Father's Day present from his wife Samantha. "Mike loves to work outside and do projects," Samantha lamented, "but, the problem is, he never completes anything and our property is currently a mess. So, I bought Mike this 10HP Kubota loader/backhoe so he can pretend he's getting things done. He can't do a lot of damage with a tiny tractor. Mike usually gets frustrated after an hour or so on the tractor and getting nowhere with planned projects. Then he comes inside and drinks beer. I just wanted to save my property from my husband. I blame the management at Fisher & Sons for all of this. Ever since they began selling autonomous mowers, Mike thinks he's some kind of equipment guru. Hopefully, this will cure him."



It's great to see HVGCSA legend Bill Luthin getting back on his feet again. After losing his home and retirement nest egg to bad crypto investments with World Liberty Financial, I am happy to report that Bill and his wife Mary have secured housing at the Jacobsen Retirement Home in Pensacola, FL. Bill has even gotten a part time job bartending at Stu Sharples' favorite watering hole, The Filthy Mermaid. Onwards and upwards Bill.



There is no event that Millbrook Club Superintendent Dan Wilber enjoys more than the GCSAA's annual "Punch a Golf Course Superintendent Day."



Leewood CC's Barkley Walker was recently appointed to Dean of Discipline/Golf Course Etiquette Chair at the club. Club officials, frustrated with the complete indifference of the membership in performing any etiquette on the golf course, began a pilot program in July to remind members that the lack of golf course etiquette will no longer be tolerated. Since the program was implemented, Barkley has nipped or bitten 68 members for etiquette transgressions. Incidents of bad behavior by members has fallen dramatically.



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In our continuing effort to promote green industry professions, the New York State Turfgrass Association awards scholarships to deserving students enrolled in turfgrass or closely-related curriculums.

We need your assistance to ensure that serious students are made aware of these scholarships. If you are aware of a promising student with a sincere interest in turf, please share the enclosed scholarship information with them.

**The deadline for applications is October 15, 2026.**

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#### 1. General Requirements

- a. The candidate must be a member of the New York State Turfgrass Association. (No Fee)
- b. The candidate must be currently enrolled, and enrolled for the coming semester as a sophomore, junior, or senior, at a four-year college or university, or a second-year student at a two-year college. In either case, the candidate must be working towards a degree in turfgrass science or a closely-related curriculum (i.e. landscape design, landscape construction, landscape maintenance, agricultural engineering, soil science, pathology/ horticultural science) where the applicant has taken all relevant turfgrass management courses, as demonstrated by the applicant's transcript.

Preference will be given to students attending a school within New York State, although this is not a requirement. Applicants are required to have a Professor from their turf-related curriculum complete the enclosed NYSTA Scholarship Applicant Evaluation Form by Professor.

**Steve Whipple & Andy Eick**  
**Scholarship Co-Chairs**

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# HVGCSA September Meeting & Worthington Cup



## PLATINUM SPONSORS



WESTCHESTER TURF SUPPLY



## Quaker Hill Country Club

1013 Quaker Hill Road, Pawling, NY

**Wednesday, September 16, 2026**

**Host: Andrew Carroll, GCS**

**10:00** Registration

**11:00** Golf: Shotgun **Format:** Individual Stroke

**Lunch** On the turn, located on Patio  
(Beer & Soda on the course)

**3:30** Dinner, Awards & Cash Bar

**Fee:** \$135 - Golf, Food & Prizes  
\$40 - After Golf Reception

**[TO REGISTER: Click HERE](#)**

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