

FOREGROUND

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YEAR END SOCIAL EVENT

December 15th



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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.



Skippy O'Dowd/Ward

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President's Message

This will be my final President's message to you. I'm sure you are as relieved as I am. I will say my two years as President were not what I had expected, mainly due to the pandemic. I was fortunate to have the support of many individuals that helped me through this unprecedented time. This comradery is what makes our association a pleasure to be part of. I appreciated everyone's help.

Here's all people that helped me along the way that I would like to thank, and I hope I don't leave anyone out. First, I would like to thank the current board for all that you do - Grover Alexander, Tim Walker, Reese Wasson, Ben Babbage, Evan Weymouth, Vince Barnaba & Jason Werbalowsky. I appreciate you giving up your time to send an email, attend a meeting, or just being available when I needed your input. I would also like to thank Susan O'Dowd for her hard work, that has made it easy for me to serve as President. We all owe her our gratitude for the amazing job she does to keep this association operating.

Secondly, I would like to thank past presidents and board members I have served with over the years. Thank you for leading the way - Steve Whipple, Dan Wilber, Guy Gurney, Chris Strehl, Kevin O'Brian, Matt Topazio, Chris Dyroff, Mike Aube. It feels like forever ago when you all cornered me at Dutchess CC and asked me to serve on the board. I'm grateful for that day because it allowed me to be something more than a superintendent. I encourage anyone who is new to the association to serve. The board experience allowed me to open my eyes to an industry that stretches far beyond the 120 acres I spend most of my time on.

My final thank you goes to all of our sponsors. You guys are generous and always supportive of the association and our members. Our association is in great shape thanks to your sponsorships and attendance at our meetings. I would like to personally thank Brian Bontemps, Kevin Collins, Billy Luthin, Dave Lippman and the late Ernie Steinhofner. Brian, Kevin, Dave, and Ernie served as Affiliate Reps while I was on the board and did a great job. Kevin and Billy were always willing to write something for the newsletter. I believe most of our members go straight to the "HV News of Interest".

I would like to share a quick story with you. When I was getting started in the industry, I worked for Robbie Steinman. Robbie always found a way to bring me to HV meetings when he could. As an assistant, I was very appreciative of this kind gesture and it made me feel that my hard work was being rewarded. This generosity encouraged me to return my appreciation by continuing to do my best for the course. I would always look forward to attending the HV meetings with Robbie and over the years this formed a friendship that we still have to this day. It's been a great learning experience; I now get to enjoy treating myself to a day of golf and rewarding my assistant or other employees. Looking back to when I first started attending meetings, there were many more superintendents that would bring a foursome. Unfortunately, now you barely see superintendents let alone assistants at meetings. It would be great to get back to the old days. From my experiences attending meetings, I would say the benefits far outweighs the cost.



Lastly, I would like to thank my wife, Renee, for all her support. This is a woman from South Florida who loves the beach, and would spend all her time there if she could. Unfortunately, we don't get to the beach in the summer as often as she would like. Serving on the board did cut into what

little time we had to get away, but my lovely wife has been very understanding and I'm grateful to have her in my life.

It has been a pleasure to represent such a great group of people. I'll be passing on the gavel to our new President, Tim Walker in January, and I'm confident he will do a great job.

Regards,

Chris Kemble



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Member News

Get Well Wishes

Our prayers & best wishes go out to **Darren Graf** from Grassland Equipment & Irrigation who was seriously injured in an accident and is presently recovering in hospital. Please reach out to Darren to wish him well.

Retirement in 2021

Congratulations to **John North** from Stone Dock Golf Course on his recent retirement from the golf industry. John was the owner of Stone Dock and has been a active HVGCSA member since 1999

Attention Superintendents!

We need your help to lock
in dates for our
2022 Meeting schedule.

Let us know ASAP
if you can host a Meeting?

April ?

June?

September?

October?

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Met Area Team Championship...recap

by: Andy Drohen

Photos by: Shaun Barry



After taking a year off due to the Covid-19 pandemic and with some familiar faces back on the team, the Philadelphia AGCS won the 2021 MET Team Championship at Saratoga National Golf Club in Saratoga, NY! This is their fifth title in the past 16 years, shooting a combined score of 4 under, 282! In a tight battle at the top, Philadelphia won by 4 strokes over the defending champions from Connecticut. Great play by all 8 team members helped propel Philadelphia to the top, led by the lowest best-ball gross score of the day of a 3 under 69 by Jeff Haas and John Gosselin. They had a well-balanced team with Rich Sweeney and Jon Urbanski firing the 5th lowest Net score of the day at 67. Philadelphia rounded out the winning team with scores of 74 gross from Darren Farrar and Chet Walsh and an even par 72 from Greg D'Antonio and Nick Lubold.

Fall foliage was peaking at just the right time for host superintendent Joe Lucas. Joe was on hand competing for the newly formed GCSA of New York and had the Roger Rulewich gem in tip top shape after a brutally rainy year. Joe grew in Saratoga National 20 years ago and has kept the challenging layout in the best courses of New York ever since with fantastic greens and tee to green conditioning!

Defending champion Connecticut made a good run at Philadelphia, but in the end the title came down to the difficult par 5 sixth, where a best ball of 9 caused some unfortunate heartache! It's believed the unnamed team is sending a case of beer to their other teammates for retribution. In third place the team from the Pocono group edged out New Jersey by just 2 strokes.

Once again after a challenging pandemic, 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 Allied Nutrients, BASF, Bayer, 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



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Met Team Championship...cont'd

times. Over the past 10 years we have raised over \$10,000 and have supported superintendents, industry representatives and their families in times of need. After the last event held, we donated \$1,000 to the Tyler Reeb Trust and \$1,000 to the Scott Wiiki Memorial Scholarship Fund and also made a donation to PA PGA professional Justin Riegel who was tragically killed in a violent storm. 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, Joe Lucas and his entire staff, and all the folks at Saratoga National GC 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/aHsmWY1oRS> We look forward to seeing everyone next year, so stay tuned for announcements over the winter!

| <u>Team Scores</u> | Par 288 (Ties broken by lowest gross scores (), then net) | <u>Score</u> |
|--------------------|--|--------------|
| 1 st | Philadelphia AGCS | 282 |
| 2 nd | Connecticut AGCS | 286 |
| 3 rd | Pocono Turfgrass Association | 291 |
| 4 th | GCSA of New Jersey | 293 |
| 5 th | METGCSA | 295 |
| 6 th | GCSA of Cape Cod | 298 |
| 7 th | Long Island GCSA (72) | 300 |
| 8 th | Eastern Shore AGCS (80) | 300 |
| 9 th | Northeastern GCSA | 308 |
| 10 th | GCSA of New York (74) | 309 |
| 11 th | Hudson Valley GCSA (83) | 309 |
| 12 th | GCSA of New England (75) | 320 |
| 13 th | Rhode Island GCSA (82) | 320 |
| 14 th | Mid-Atlantic AGCS | WD |

Skill Events

Closest to the pin hole #5, sponsored by Ocean Organics Steve Whipple 8'-2" - Hudson Valley GCSA

Closest to the pin hole #7, sponsored by Bayer Jason Meersman 1'-6" - METGCSA

Closest to the pin hole #12, sponsored by Toro Mike Hermanson 14'-3" - GCSA of New England

Closest to the pin hole #15, sponsored by Plant Food Jeff Haas 4'-2" - Philadelphia AGCS



Hudson Valley News of Interest;

By: Kevin Collins



PJ Rotella Superintendent Chris Dyroff recently attended the annual Dyroff family reunion which was held in upstate NY in October. Chris is pictured here with his sister Frank who he hadn't seen in 25 years.



Garrison's Jeff Newell was more than a little upset when he discovered that the club was closing and the property had been donated to the local Shakespeare theatre group to hold future performances. His response was to turn what was going to be the main stage area into a trailer park.



Commodore Tim Walker, seen here at his Hudson River boat club, will be assuming the reins as HVGCSA President. Since the HVGCSA Board of Directors has only met once in the past 5 years, Tim has suggested that any future meetings should be held on his boat. And, he'll be wearing his spiffy Commodore's hat at all meetings.



Florida mob boss Cal Fowx is seen here unconscious on his couch. When Cal objected to his wife Nancy going out with her girlfriends, Nancy drugged both Cal and the dog. They both woke up the next morning none the worse for wear.

Here's another great shot of Chris Dyroff and his lovely wife Danielle enjoying themselves at the recent Dyroff family reunion. Missing from the picture is Chris's sister Frank who Chris strangled 30 minutes prior to this photo being taken.



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September Meeting @ Spook Rock...recap

A beautiful September day that felt more like a mid July day welcomed our 40+ members to Spook Rock Golf Course for a nice relaxing round of golf, delicious food and camaraderie. The best part of my job is attending the meetings and interacting with the members. It was great to see Bill Luthin in attendance, I should have asked him do the meeting recap. Spook Rock just happens to be my favorite course because it's the only course in the 14 years that I've been playing that I managed somehow to score my lowest round ever (84). It was definitely a one time event! Being paired with 3 great golfers & gentlemen, Dave Lippman, Kevin Doyle and Steve Whipple was fun! Kevin is great with his irons....that's why he always wins closet-to-pin prize. I got to see how golf should be played and since we were walking we got in a little exercise. It was a great day!

Many thanks to Reese & all the staff at Spook Rock for hosting our event and having the course in great condition and making the day run smoothly.

Results:

Low Gross: Dave Lippman, Westchester Turf Supply (77)

Low Net *Tie*: Guy Gurney & Steve Whipple **match of cards—Guy won.

Closest-to-Pin: Kevin Doyle (10'7")

Longest Drive: Guy Gurney

50/50 - John Wickes

Thank you to our sponsors for their continued support! And above all, a huge thanks to Grover for his great emceeing...we all know how much he loves doing it.

Susan O'Dowd



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September Meeting @ Spook Rock





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October Meeting & Worthington Cup...recap



What a day we had for our October Meeting/Worthington Cup at McCann Memorial! It rained for most of the day, but that didn't stop the 36 HVGCSA members & guests from going out to compete for the Worthington Cup tournament. Our 2020 champ Matt Topazio was unable to make it to the meeting to defend his title, but after several heavy rain

delays that gave our competitors a chance to refuel and dry off and when all was said and done, Steve Whipple from West Point came out on top and was crowned the 2021 Worthington Cup winner. Congrats to all the winners!

For those of you that don't know the history of the Worthington Cup. The tournament was founded back in 1992 and was dedicated to Ed Worthington, Jr., who ran a turfcare supply business from the back of his truck and is the grandfather of our member Dave Dudones, Director of Grounds at Westchester CC. The Worthington family have been in the turf business dating back to 1854. They were credited for developing the first commercial reel mower, a technology that was later sold to Jacobsen in the mid 40's.

Many thanks to Chris Kemble & McCann Memorial GC for hosting our event, even with all the rain the course was in excellent shape and the food was great. Thanks to all our sponsors for their support and to all our members that came out to support our association.

Susan O'Dowd





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Social Events

HVGCSA & MetGCSA Tailgate Party

Tim Walker from Leewood Golf Club and his children at Michie Stadium enjoying the joint event with the MetGCSA on November 20th at West Point. The cannons were blasting!! Army kicked UMASS butts with 4 Touch Downs (33 - 17)



Annual Dutchess County Cornhole Classic



The 5th Annual Cornhole Classic took place on November 4th hosted by Dan Wilber at The Millbrook Golf and Tennis Club. About 40 show up for a great day of friendly competition and trash talking.

First Place: Jim Seaman and his partner Chris Kemble who had to leave before the finals soooooo, Brent Thompson from Silo Ridge paired up with Jim and rode the wave to the championship.

Second Place: Dan Wilber and Red Hewitt | Brian Kelly and Ron Jasmine

This is not an official HVGCSA event, but 80% who attended were HV members.



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Revamping your Hiring Process

by: Kevin Doyle, NE GCSAA Field Staff



One talking point that has been a lead topic at every site visit I can remember is labor. In the early years it would typically revolve around the quality of the crew. Now of course, discussion leans more towards volume, are you able to find enough labor. There are forward thinking people undertaking creative ways to solve those issues, and enterprising individuals blazing trails to assist others. One recent site visit reminded me that the oldest marketing strategy may still be a very effective method. While word of mouth may work for some, would it work for you?

I was delighted to hear Chris Johnson at Bellport CC tell me that his labor was in good shape. For this to occur on the south coast of Long Island was truly surprising to me. I know so many superintendents on the Island struggle to find labor. Johnson explained to me that a 2020 hire had recommended employment at the club to a family member. She was brought on this year and was a great fit! Word of mouth working at its best, but is it really that easy?

So, let's say one of your employees approached me and wanted me to work at your facility. What do you think they would say? They could be your biggest sales staff. Good pay, engaging work, flexible hours when needed, and being a wonderful place to work? That would pique my interest.

Now if I approached a friend of mine, one of your employees, and asked if they are hiring. I didn't receive the afore mentioned information, instead I got the opposite. Pay is ok, no flexibility to handle personal items, some people are nice but all I do is string trim and rake bunkers.

If you have tried to utilize current employees to fill out your staff, they may indeed have already given you a heads-up about your operation. If it worked, you may have found a great mix of the items employees are looking for. If your word-of-mouth initiative wasn't successful, understanding why could help grow your crew/business.

This area of Foreground has expanded on employee feedback before. The staff performing daily tasks are often the best resources for ideas to maximize efficiency. We have highlighted off-season strategic planning and how building a plan with the entire staff can build ownership in those new-innovative ideas. Consider utilizing your best possible sales staff, your current employees, to ensure your facility and employment opportunities are the best they could possibly be. If your employees are seeking to bring friends or loved ones to your team, you know you have built an employee package and inclusive culture that everyone at the facility can be proud of.

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

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MetGCSA

Winter Seminar

Westchester CC
January 12, 2022

GIS Conference

San Diego
February 5 - 10, 2022

Nor'Easter Ski Day

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February 15, 2022



HVGCSA

YEAR END SOCIAL EVENT

BILLY JOE'S RIBWORKS

26 Front Street, Newburgh, NY

Wednesday, December 15th

Food & Open Bar (beer & wine)

2:00pm - 4:00pm

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Fee: No Cost

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