

# FOREGROUND

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*Hudson River, Sleepy Hollow, 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



The 2025 season is finally coming to a close. With any luck, everyone is heading in to the winter months feeling good about the state of their golf courses and looking forward to some well deserved R & R. Every year presents its own challenges and this year was no exception. These challenges are what keeps us on our toes and makes the job interesting if nothing else.

2025 featured a number of successful Hudson Valley GCSA meetings and events. A big thank you to our host members:

- Hudson Hills
- Putnam County
- Links @ Union Vale
- Phillip Rotella
- The Monster
- McCann Memorial
- Osiris

The 2026 schedule is already in the works and promises more good times and camaraderie

As my term as president comes to a close, I would like to thank the entire board of directors, the HVGCSA membership, and Susan O'Dowd for their support and voices throughout my term. Leading our association has certainly been a team effort. We are always looking for new members to join our board of directors. If anyone is interested, please reach out to a current board member or myself, to learn more about what's involved.

Our final event of the year is our Winter Social being held at Patriot Hills on December 4th, followed by our Annual Meeting and Seminars at Resorts World Casino in Monticello on January 22nd. I hope to see everyone at these events and wish everyone Happy Holidays as we close the books on 2025.

**Reese Wasson**  
**President**

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# Hudson Valley GCSA is the Rightful Champion at the 44<sup>th</sup> MET Area Team Championship

By: Andy Drohen

The 44<sup>th</sup> MET Area Team Championship returned this fall to Tamarack Country Club, where thirteen regional golf course superintendents' associations from the Metropolitan, New England, and Mid-Atlantic regions teed it up for one of the industry's most competitive and camaraderie-filled events. On a crisp autumn day over Tamarack's classic par-70 Charles Banks design, the Hudson Valley Golf Course Superintendents Association (HVGCSA) emerged victorious, carding a team total of 285, five strokes clear of their nearest challengers.



*HVGCSA Team: Left: Joe Meyer, Grover Alexander, Will O'Brien, Steve Whipple, Chris Kemble, Brent Thompson & Reese Wasson (missing from the photo Dave Lippman)*

## Scoreboard Confusion Adds Some Drama

As scores began to roll in, what appeared to be a smooth finish turned chaotic. Due to a computer entry issue, two groups mistakenly submitted net scores instead of gross scores on their official cards, which means 4 teams had incorrect scores posted. When those numbers were entered into the scoring software, the teams were inadvertently credited twice for strokes, causing a jumble on the leaderboard. Tournament staff identified the error after the fact, double-checked the cards, and recalculated the affected totals. Unfortunately, prizes were handed out and gift cards were cashed before the errors were discovered and corrected the following day. At the awards dinner, the Northeastern GCSA was inadvertently awarded first place when in fact, they came in second. Scores were corrected on the 21<sup>st</sup> and the Hudson Valley and Northeastern groups were notified. Northeastern GCSA will pass on the trophies to the Hudson Valley association as soon as possible ensuring the Hudson Valley GCSA's well-earned victory was properly recorded.

While it created a few tense moments on the scoring, the corrections were met with good humor among the teams

— a reminder that even in a precision-minded profession like turf management, a little human error can still sneak in.

Scoring also affected the skins results as well and were announced the day after the event and paid out with only 1 Net skin and 1 Gross skin surviving! Congratulations to our skins winners! Chris Kemble took home the net skin with an eagle on Hole 10, while Dave Lippman captured the gross skin with a birdie on Hole 2. Well played, gentlemen!

## Championship Recap

Cool, clear weather with some wind, and firm conditions made Tamarack a true test of precision and patience. The course's signature squared-off greens and deep bunkering demanded accuracy on approach, while the fast, rolling greens punished even the slightest of misreads.

It was Hudson Valley's Net partners of Brent Thompson and Chris Kemble leading the way with a 6 under par 64, followed by the other Net pair of Reese Wasson and Will O'Brien at 68. On the Gross side the team of Steve Whipple and Joe Meyer shot 76 followed by Dave Lippman and Grover Alexander at 77. All around consistent team play allowed them to secure their second ever victory, their first coming in 2012 at The Stanwich Club. David Lippman said of their victory, "it was a total team effort! Everybody was jiving with their partners all day. The course was amazing and very brutal in the wind! Patience and fortitude won the day!"

When all the scoring was corrected it turns out this year's championship was a tightly contested battle with only 3 strokes separating 2<sup>nd</sup> place through 8<sup>th</sup> place! Tie-breakers had to be used at all those positions all the way to 10<sup>th</sup> place! Ties are broken by each teams combined Gross scores, followed by their combined Net scores. The Northeastern Associations gross team scores were 2 ahead of New Jersey's on the tiebreaker giving them second place while New Jersey secured 3<sup>rd</sup> spot, just 2 strokes ahead of a log-jam at 293. Three associations had to use the tiebreaker to determine 4<sup>th</sup> place which was awarded to the Philadelphia Association! Congratulations to the top four teams in this

*Continued...page 11*



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# Labor Challenges in Golf Course Management

Kevin Doyle, GCSAA Northeast Representative

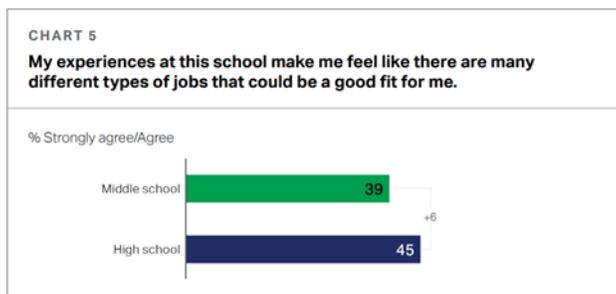


Labor continues to be a struggle for many superintendents in the northeast. Whether attracting them or retaining them, the process is difficult and often costly. The days of placing an ad in a newspaper (for the senior members of the industry) or even expecting a response from Indeed or other online jobsites are no longer a viable option. Does that mean it is impossible, no. What it has turned into is work. Yes, you have to expend a lot more effort to acquire employees of any talent level. Where to look and GCSAA resources to offer can help make it easier and more effective.

GCSAA has made a concerted effort to engage the million participants in FFA. Young people enamored with outdoor interests are a logical target for golf course maintenance. GCSAA visibility at the national conference has been happening for years now and visiting state conventions are on the rise. Do you have a local FFA near your course? A visit to the golf course would fit their learning model and offer you a viable touch to possible or future employees.

Our mission at GCSAA to “enhance the enjoyment, growth, and vitality of the game of golf” cuts right to the heart of this matter. The First Green initiative is about opening our courses as a science lab to young students. Access to our property and game may never happen otherwise. Showing them what we do at our facility and how we do it is a key step to a possible future with golf in it. New Hampshire Learning Initiative commissioned a Gallup poll regarding career-connected learning ([The Power of Career-Connected Learning in New Hampshire](#)):

Students who agree that the career activities at their school include the types of jobs and careers they're interested in are more than **three times more likely** to agree that the CCL opportunities at their school have informed what they plan to do after high school than those who do not agree.



Whether it's a new employee from outside the organization, or working with current staff looking to advance, GCSAA resources for staff continue to grow. Assistant Superintendent Certificate Series Equipment Management Certificate Program Greenkeeper Certificate Program Crew Training and Support

[Assistant Superintendent Certificate Series](#)

[Equipment Management Certificate Program](#)

[Greenkeeper Certificate Program](#)

[Crew Training and Support](#)

Looking to increase wages for critical staff such as your assistant or equipment manager? The certificate programs above give you quantitative proof of their proficiency and therefore a clear pathway to advocate for their value. Staff members looking to learn more about the industry? Greenkeeper Certificate Program starts down that learning path. Should they want to progress further then maybe a winter school or two-year university program is the next viable step. Employee's first time on a golf course or new to your team. Take advantage of the training videos (English and Spanish) as the first step. Eleven tasks included, with “This is a Golf Course” for those who have never been on a course before!

Engaging young people (even as young as middle school) alerts them to our industry, increasing the chances of them looking at a career in golf course maintenance. Educating them once they are engaged is critical to their success. While not easy to do either for the superintendent, resources to achieve both are becoming easier for you to benefit from!





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# HVGCSA Delegate Meeting Update

October 27–29, 2025 | GCSAA Headquarters, Lawrence, Kansas

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Greetings HVGCSA members,

I just want to provide a quick update from this year's delegate meeting, which took place at the GCSAA headquarters in Lawrence Kansas on October 27-29 of 2025. This year 89 of 91

associations were represented from all across the US. The meeting was very productive as it introduced Colonel John Morley's founding vision back in 1926. Yes, the GCSAA turns 100 this coming 2026!!

The GCSAA now has over 20,000 members, which shows the strength of our industry, and it is projected to grow as we reach out to have more Assistant Superintendents and Equipment managers join. Another large undertaking is the implementation of the **BMP (Best Management Practices) program**. It has been around for a while, but it is becoming more common and will most likely become a staple that we all should be doing. Just giving the heads up now so if you haven't done so, reach out to myself or GCSAA Northeast regional field representative Kevin Doyle for more info.

The delegate meeting as a whole is a great way to learn more about what the GCSAA does as well as give you the opportunity to network with other superintendents from all over the country. The meeting is very compact and detailed and well structured. There are basically 3 parts to the meeting.

**Part 1 (Monday evening)** This includes the welcome reception and dinner. This is where they update progress from last year's meeting and go over the topics for the next day's meeting.

**Part 2 (Tuesday morning)** General session in an auditorium style seating area with the breakdown of what's to be discussed in the "breakout sessions" These breakout sessions are smaller groups that discuss the topics more in depth, detailed and to the point with a staff member taking notes to follow up with later.

**Part 3 (Tuesday afternoon)** General session in same auditorium but this is to discuss the new GCSAA members running for office. They have about 4 or 5 minutes to talk to the delegates and discuss who they are or why they are running. Then another breakout session to meet each candidate more in depth and we can ask then more detailed questions about them running for office.

I strongly encourage anyone who's not a member to join the GCSAA and if you are already a member, I strongly encourage you to attend a delegate meeting at least once, but you will get more out of it the second time. If anyone has questions about joining the GCSAA or attending the delegate meeting don't hesitate to contact me.

Enjoy your winter and recharge your human battery!

**Jay Werbalowsky, GCS  
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# HVGCSA is the Rightful Champion...cont'd

hard fought battle!

**Notable Performances** While the Hudson Valley emerged as the champions with all around solid team play, standout performances were evident across the other associations. Closest to the pins were awarded to Matt Santos on 3 who put it 8'-7", Parish Pina on 7 at 7'-10", Chris Walton on 12 at the closest shot of the day, 3'-0" and Steve McDonald on the 15<sup>th</sup> at 6"-1". All four players represented 4 different associations.

The Mid-Atlantic also had a long drive winner, to go along with Steve's closest to the pin, on hole number 5 in con team of Justin Mills, Zach Axtell and Tyler Blizzard, this year's hosts at Tamarack Country Club! The work Jeff and his team have done over the past few years is absolutely beautiful and course conditions were just spectacular!

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!

## Results

### Team Scores Par 70 – 280 (Ties broken by lowest gross scores ( ), then net)

1 <sup>st</sup>	Hudson Valley GCSA	285
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Northeastern GCSA	291 (152)
3 <sup>rd</sup>	GCSA of New Jersey	291 (154)
4 <sup>th</sup>	Philadelphia AGCS	293 (149)
5 <sup>th</sup>	METGCSA	293 (150)
6 <sup>th</sup>	Pocono Turfgrass Association	293 (155)
7 <sup>th</sup>	GCSA of New York	294 (148)
8 <sup>th</sup>	GCSA of Cape Cod	294 (154)
9 <sup>th</sup>	Long Island GCSA	296 (152)
10 <sup>th</sup>	Rhode Island GCSA	296 (161)
11 <sup>th</sup>	Connecticut AGCS	303
12 <sup>th</sup>	Mid-Atlantic AGCS	306
13 <sup>th</sup>	GCSA of New England	308

### Skill Events

Closest to the pin hole #3, sponsored by Toro	Matt Santos 8'-7"- GCSA of New England
Closest to the pin hole #7, sponsored by Allied Nutrients	Parish Pina 7'-10" – GCSA of Cape Cod
Closest to the pin hole #12, sponsored by BASF	Chris Walton 3'-0" – Philadelphia AGCS
Closest to the pin hole #15, sponsored by Syngenta	Steve McDonald 6'-1" – Mid-Atlantic AGCS

### Long Drive

Hole # 5: Net Division sponsored by Plant Food	Matt Earhart – Mid-Atlantic AGCS
Hole # 14: Gross Division sponsored by Ocean Organics	Kevin Seibel – MET GCSA
Hole # 17: Sponsors Division sponsored by Envu	Pete Jacobsen – BASF

### Low Gross Team

Matt Cornuet & Rene Vadeboncoeur from GCSA of Cape Cod Score of 69

### Sponsorship Team Winner

Dave Conrad & Mike Weinert from Plant Food Score of 68

### Skins – Net

Chris Kemble Eagle on 10

### Skins – Gross

Dave Lippman Birdie on 2



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## **We Want You! Become A NYSTA Member Today!**

### **A Legacy of Leadership in Turfgrass Management**

The New York State Turfgrass Association (NYSTA) was established on March 4, 1949, during the Second Annual Cornell Turfgrass Conference in Ithaca, New York. One of its founding members, Professor John Farnsworth Cornman of Cornell University's Department of Ornamental Horticulture, played a pivotal role in its creation. Under Professor Cornman's leadership, Cornell initiated teaching, research, and extension programs in turfgrass management beginning in 1940. NYSTA's original mission was to "develop an attitude of solidarity among those interested in turf; promote the advancement of turf culture throughout New York State; address the collective challenges of turf professionals; disseminate information on best practices; and advance education and instruction in turf management." As we flash forward to 2025, now more than seven decades later, NYSTA continues to uphold the core principles upon which it was founded — Education, Advocacy, and Stewardship.

### **Education**

NYSTA provides numerous opportunities for professional development through New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) accredited programs. These include in-person educational conferences and nine winter webinars. Members enjoy significant benefits — including savings of up to \$540 in webinar registration fees — while earning valuable DEC credits toward applicator licenses.

### **Advocacy**

NYSTA actively represents the interests of turf and green industry professionals at the state level. Working closely with the New York State Green Industry Council, NYSTA advocates for fair regulation and legislation that supports and protects the green industry. Through its engagement in the New York State Assembly and Senate, NYSTA ensures that the voices of turf professionals are heard and their livelihoods safeguarded.

### **Stewardship**

NYSTA fosters connections with experts across the turfgrass

industry to address the environmental challenges members face. A prime example of this commitment is NYSTA's leadership in developing Best Management Practices (BMPs) for New York State golf courses. Funded by NYSTA's Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship Fund and developed in collaboration with Cornell University and industry professionals, these BMPs have set a national precedent — positioning New York as one of the first states to implement comprehensive standards that strengthen both stewardship and advocacy efforts.

### **Additional Programs and Achievements**

Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship Fund (TESF) This fund enables NYSTA to support turfgrass research and provide educational assistance to local chapters, advancing scientific understanding and professional development across the state.

### **NYSTA Apprenticeship Program**

Now entering its third year, this New York State-registered program helps green industry employers train and invest in key employees at minimal cost. The program continues to grow in popularity and success, equipping the next generation of turf professionals with the knowledge and skills needed to thrive.

### **The Importance of Membership**

Despite these achievements, NYSTA faces a pressing challenge — declining membership. No other organization in New York State provides the same level of advocacy, education, and support for golf course and green industry professionals. To continue these vital efforts, NYSTA needs your participation. We encourage every member of every local turf or superintendents' association to join NYSTA. We are asking for your help and support by joining to help strengthen our collective ability to protect and promote New York's golf and green industry. For just \$280 per year, webinar level members receive access to all the benefits outlined above, including nine NYSDEC-accredited webinars. Don't need NYSDEC credits and still want to join? We also have a \$150 individual level. Joining is simple — scan the QR code included with this article to get started. Thank you for your time, your commitment to our industry, and for listening.

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**Kevin Collins, Treasurer  
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# BOARD OF DIRECTORS CORNER

## Modern Day Golf Etiquette



### Do You Ever See Rory or Bryson Rake a Bunker?

Ball mark repair, replacing divots, raking bunkers, and following cart traffic guidance have become more of a challenge than ever. Since 2021, there's been a noticeable increase in neglect of basic course care and etiquette. Watching groups play, it's clear that many golfers are less concerned with maintaining the course. While it is frustrating to those who manage and maintain turf, it has become a problem we need to embrace.

While it's frustrating to drive out in the morning and see a foot-long unrepaired divot or a green that looks like Swiss cheese after 250 rounds, these golfers are fueling an unprecedented boom in golf participation. That's something we can't ignore.

I've come to realize that professional golf on TV does not help promote course care or golf etiquette. It's not often we see our favorite golfers doing the essential of fixing their damage... because someone else does it for them. Unfortunately, that's how people are learning golf now.

While it is frustrating, we need to keep in mind that these golfers are helping us ride an all time boom in golf demand. A tolerance for neglect has to be acceptable or we will drive away what makes this game enjoyable for our consumer.

Stay calm. It will grow back. Keep on keepin' on.

**Evan Weymouth**  
**Patriot Hills GC**

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# Worthington Cup at Osiris.....recap



What a fantastic day we had for our Worthington Cup at Osiris Country Club! We enjoyed a great turnout, perfect weather, and some truly impressive golf.

A huge thank you to Reese and the Osiris team for hosting our final golf event of the season and generously covering the open bar. The course was in excellent condition, making for an unforgettable day.



## Congratulations to our Worthington Cup Champion:

**Joe Meyer (Villa Roma) – Low Gross (73)**

This marks Joe's **second consecutive win** in this event—an incredible achievement!

## Additional Results:

- **Low Net:** Cody Bojo, Villa Roma (62)
- **Long Drive:** Joe Perry, Finch Turf
- **Closest to Pin #8:** Dick Neufeld, Plant Food (10' 7")
- **Closest to Pin #17:** Darren Hendrickson, Guest (10' 3")



## 50/50 Winners:

Jeff Newell (Putnam Country GC) & Chris Marra (Syngenta)

Thank you to all our sponsors for their continued support—please remember to support them in return!

Here's to a great season and looking forward to an even better year ahead!

Susan



# SAVE-THE-DATE



## Hudson Valley GCSA Winter Educational Seminar

Resorts World Casino, Monticello, NY

**Thursday, January 22, 2026**

Registration will open soon!

### Tailgate with MetGCSA at West Point



### SPONSORS

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Chris Marra: 862-505-4319  
[christopher.marra@syngenta.com](mailto:christopher.marra@syngenta.com)

#### **Synatek**

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[www.synateksolutions.com](http://www.synateksolutions.com)

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# Plant Health from Leaf to Root

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## Activator + SA

Harrell's SprayMAX® Activator + SA improves the coverage of foliar nutritionals and plant protectants.



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## Mycorrhizae Pro

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# HVGCSA

## YEAR END SOCIAL EVENT

Patriot Lounge  
19 Clubhouse Lane, Story Point, NY

*Thursday, December 4th*

*Food & Open Bar*

*Golf Simulators, Axe Throwing, Pool Tables*

*12:00 - 2:00pm*

*All Members & Family are Welcome!!*

*Fee: No Cost*

### *Thank you to our Sponsors!*

*Metro Turf Specialists | Harrell's | Westchester Turf Supply*

*Davey Tree | Grass Roots | Site One | Storr Tractor*

*Tanto Irrigation | Ocean Organics | BASF | Fisher & Son | Noble Turf*

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**THANK YOU TO ALL OUR SPONSORS FOR THEIR SUPPORT**

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- SOIL SOLUTIONS
- W & B GOLF CARTS
- WESTCHESTER TRACTOR

# Upcoming Events

**December 4<sup>th</sup>**  
**Year End Party**  
 Patriot Lounge  
 Stony Point, NY

**January 14<sup>th</sup>**  
**MetGCSA Winter Seminar**  
 Westchester CC  
 Rye, NY

**January 22<sup>nd</sup>**  
**Winter Educational Seminar**  
 Resorts World  
 Monticello, NY

**February 2<sup>nd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup>**  
**GCSAA Conference**  
 Orlando, FL

**February 11<sup>th</sup>**  
**Nor'Easter Ski Day**  
 Pico Mountain  
 Mendon, VT