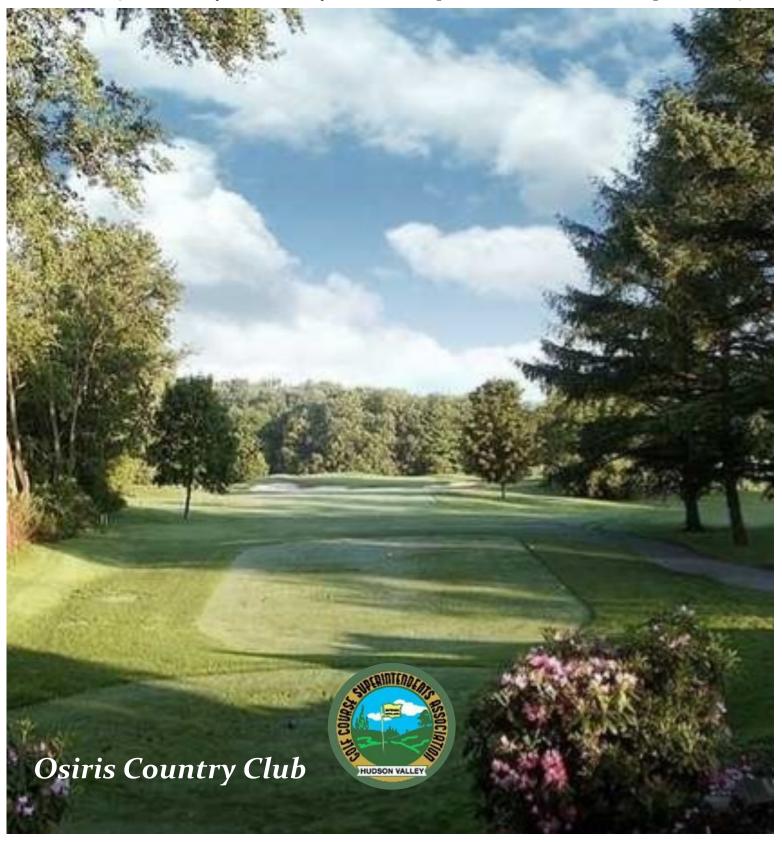
# FOREGROUND

VOL. 62 NO. 5 Published by Hudson Valley Golf Course Superintendents Association September 2025



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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 leaves have started to fall and maybe some raindrops will follow. I hope everyone has had a good season as the year winds down to a conclusion. While the days get shorter, it sure doesn't seem like the fall project list does the same.

Our September meeting at McCann Memorial

Golf Course was a success with a great turnout. Chris Kemble had the course in great shape and it was a fantastic day for golf. The day also served as the HVGCSA qualifier for the Met Team Championship. Congratulations to all those who qualified for the team and who will represent the Hudson Valley at Tamarack CC on Oct. 20<sup>th</sup>.

As my term of President of the HVGCSA comes to a close, I would like to thank our association members, sponsors, board of directors, and Past President Tim Walker for all your support and active roles in the Hudson Valley Chapter. It's been great learning experience and honor to serve everyone in this association. Osiris Country Club will be hosting the Worthington Cup and our final meeting of the year on October 7<sup>th</sup>. I hope to see everyone out on the course.

Please keep an eye out for our winter events, the Year End Party and Winter Seminar. I'd also encourage anyone who would like to get involved to reach out to a board member or myself. There are multiple opportunities available including board of director positions, GCSAA chapter delegates, and chapter liaisons.

I wish everyone a strong finish to the 2025 season!

Reese Wasson

President

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On Tuesday, October 7th, Osiris CC and Superintendent Reese Wasson will host "The Worthington Cup". 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, Swawnee CC, located in Swawnee-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 Corporation (a turfgrass supply business located in Saranac Lake, NY) in the 1940's. Ed would travel the Hudson Valley region 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 holding an annual tournament in his name.

### The Golf Course:

Osiris opened for play in 1927. The original nine-hole golf course, built by the membership, was characterized by its small greens and flat "parkland" design. A second nine, designed by Frank Duane, was added in the 1960's. The second nine is characterized by rolling fairways, elevation changes, and large well bunkered greens. In the 1990's, Architect Steve Esposito added his touches on the original nine and reconfigured three holes. And, just a few years ago, three new holes were added to the front nine to accommodate some future building lots. One of those holes was just returned to the original par-3 it replaced. Osiris plays 6400 yards from the back tees.

Reese Wasson was hired in the winter of 2023 by a new ownership group to manage the golf course. Since Reese took over as superintendent, the clubhouse has been completely renovated, an aggressive tree removal program was instituted for the golf course and, in the short term, a plan to improve course conditions course-wide was implemented. Future long term plans include an irrigation upgrade and a tee renovation process.

Osiris is a fun track to play. Holes of note include the 13th, a 450-yard par 4. From an elevated tee,



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# Osiris Country Club to host Worthington Cup...Continued

you'll want to avoid the bunkers left and right of the landing area. If you can find the fairway with your tee shot, your approach is to a green guarded on the right by a large oak tree and a bunker left. The putting surface slopes severely from back to front.

The 3rd hole is a 375-yard dogleg right par 4. The tee shot is to a narrow tree lined fairway. The approach shot to the green demands accuracy. A large bunker guards the front of the green. There is a pot bunker left and if you fly the green you'll most likely be out of bounds, so don't go long!!

### **About Reese:**



Reese grew up in Middletown, NY. You would think that he would have been like so many of the superintendents in the Hudson Valley area, working at a local golf course in high school and finding their future profession but that didn't happen with Reese.

"I didn't think about golf until I was in college," Reese said, "I was at U.R.I. and decided to change my major to Turfgrass Management. I had never worked on a golf course. My first real experiences were my internships. I did my first one and Orange County GC (now West Hills) in Middletown, NY and my second at Manchester CC in Bedford, NH.

In 2004, Reese graduated and was hired at Hamlet Golf & CC in Long Island as an assistant. "My first boss was Ken Lochridge (now at Glen Head CC). Ken left and they offered me the superintendent's position in 2008. I stayed there for four years until Club Corp took over the management of the facility. I knew it was time to leave," laughed Reese.

Reese worked as an assistant at Colonial Springs CC on the Island for a couple of years when, in 2014, the superintendent's position opened up at Winding Hills GC in Montgomery, NY. It was time to come home.

"I spent four years at Winding Hills and really enjoyed it," Reese said, "In 2018, the superintendent's position at Spook Rock GC opened up and I applied for it and got it. It was run by a management company, Applied Golf. They were good to work for and never micromanaged me. They left me alone to do my work and all they expected was that we keep the course in good condition."

In 2023, Reese took on the position of superintendent at Osiris. A new ownership group bought the golf course and needed a professional like Reese to lead them into future.

In addition to all the demands on Reese at Osiris, Reese has been active in the Association and, this year, is finishing up his term as the HVGCSA's President. Reese lives in Middletown, NY with his wife Nicole and their two daughters, Everly-6 and Brinley-1.

We'll see you at Osiris on October 7th!!

### **Kevin Collins**





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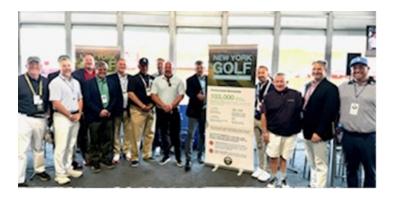
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### NY Economic and Environmental Impact Study

### Kevin Doyle, GCSAA Northeast Representative

Congratulations to all the New York superintendent associations on the completion of the Economic and Environmental Impact study. The significant value the



golf industry brings to the state of New York will not go unnoticed! I personally am looking forward to NYSTA Lobby Day again in 2026 and using this information for continued success.

GCSAA needs your help to do the same at the national level. The Golf Course Environmental Profile is a groundbreaking project launched in 2006 to develop a comprehensive environmental profile of golf courses in the United States. GCSAA held meetings with a wide range of industry groups that identified a need for this data. The industry faces issues ranging from land use to regulations and practices governing water use, nutrients, and pest control. Prior to the GCEP, the industry faced a critical need for accurate data on the land use, inputs, management of natural resources and environmental stewardship associated with golf courses in the United States. Used in part to help advocate for golf course professionals and the golf industry, the profile articulated in reports and surveys - conveys accurate data on the land use, management of natural resources and environmental stewardship associated with golf courses across the country. The guest for vital data continues on:

### Complete the Nutrient and Pest Management Survey by Nov. 10

Your participation in GCSAA's Golf Course Environmental Profile Nutrient and Pest Management Survey is critical to the future of the game of golf. All superintendents, including non-GCSAA members, should participate in this critical survey and ensure that the profession and industry are well represented by all course types, budget levels and locations. 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 through Nov. 10.

### Take the survey now through Nov. 10 »

### Participate and win

All superintendents who complete the survey will be entered into drawings for prizes, with names randomly drawn. Prizes will be awarded for each survey in Phase IV. There will be four \$500 prize winners for this survey totaling \$2,000 in prizes.

### **Service points**

Superintendents will receive 0.50 service points per completed survey. The data will be presented for the United States as national aggregate data or regional



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# Economic and Environmental Impact study.....continued

aggregate data. Individual facility data will not be shared or disclosed.

### **Key points**

The Golf Course Environmental Profile is owned and copyright protected by GCSAA. Data should be properly cited for publication, presentations, etc.

Phase IV is funded through the GCSAA Foundation with support from the USGA.

GCSAA intends to publish the survey in peer-reviewed journals.

NGF will conduct, process and analyze the data on behalf of the GCSAA as a third-party and independent entity who will follow the market industry standards to ensure valid survey results.

Travis Shaddox, Ph.D., president, Bluegrass Art and Science LLC, and J. Bryan Unruh, Ph.D., Extension turfgrass specialist, University of Florida, West Florida Research and Education Center, will provide technical oversight, analyze data, and write publications including the peer-reviewed manuscripts, public reports, and GCM articles.

All participants' individual survey results are not disclosed or shared. Results are reported in aggregate only. In addition, GCSAA does not sell email addresses.

As third parties, the scientists will work to ensure that the scientific methods associated with data collection and reporting are valid.

### **Uses of survey results**

Document changes in environmental practices over time Assist in determining the future direction of GCSAA environmental efforts and education Identify key issues for potential research projects

Respond to governmental and public inquiries

Promote the efforts superintendents are making on their golf courses

Provide a solid basis for comments on proposed regulatory issues

# Meeting Schedule

### October 7<sup>th</sup> Worthington Cup

Host: Reese Wasson Osiris Country Club

### October 20<sup>th</sup> Met Team Championship

Host: Jeff Scott, CGCS
Tamarack Country Club

## November 8<sup>th</sup> Tailgate Party w/MetGCSA West Point

December TBD Year End Party Patriot's Lounge

January 22nd
Winter Educational Seminar
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Monticello, NY





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# **Hudson Valley News of Interest**

By: Kevin Collins



\*In one of the more stunning examples of "Animorphism" and "Shape Shifting", retired Hayworth Super and Colorado native Tim Garceau recently transformed himself into a Bull Elk. Tim is seen here happily prancing through a meadow. Tim's wife Judy reports that while Tim is in full "Elk" mode, she keeps him away from the cows during rutting season and tied up in the back yard. Tim's diet changes a bit during his time as an Elk. To keep up his 800lb. frame, Tim needs to consume 24 pounds of food a day. Tim has already eaten all the grasses and shrubs at his Fort Collins home.



\*Happy Anniversary to Cal & Nancy Fowx. 20 years!!



\*Sally sends Evan out to do some grocery shopping and this is what she gets. I don't blame Sally one bit for being upset.



\*Leewood's Tim Walker, who believes that he has the hands-down best conditioned golf course in Westchester County, recently visited the iconic Bethpage Black Golf Course during Ryder Cup week to see how he stacked up against one of the finest conditioned golf courses in Long Island. Tim was escorted off the property after he was heard referring to the famed AW Tillinghast design as a "goat track".



\*Putnam National Super Jeff Newell just recently got out of rehab. During his stint drying out, Jeff excelled in Arts & Crafts. He created this wonderful "Welcome to Our Camp" fun log with a black bear head. Jeff can't wait to relapse so he can go back to rehab to create some more art treasures.



### BOARD OF DIRECTORS CORNER

### THE GOOD, BAD & UGLY

As 2025 comes to an end, it's time to reflect on the good, the bad, and the ugly. What a year it has been, as I'm sure many superintendents can't wait until the golf season is over. The golf grind was truly a test, especially here at the Villa Roma.

The Good: We started the season out with the completion of our brand new hunter irrigation system! Fully functional with water to every manicured area of turf. What a relief knowing we could irrigate properly and not have to rely on pulling a tanker around to water.

Hosted our first AJGA event. You want to watch some good golf? These kids made golf look so effortless with their ball striking, putting, and professionalism. At 5 am, the place was packed with kids on the driving range and putting green. How could they even see at that time in the morning?

The Bad: The WEATHER! I don't know about the rest of you guys out there, but we had a very very wet spring. Ruts everywhere, groups cancelling, business down. Then we get to August and haven't seen any rain here since July 20th. Our irrigation pond is dwindling down to almost nothing. What ever happened to those light steady rains every few days? Even though we've had beautiful days packed with guests, the weather has been a thorn in our side.

The Ugly: What one considers ugly might actually be beautiful in someone else's eyes. But.....I think we're all going to agree that when you have guests taking divots out of the greens due to frustration, it's not the beautiful ugly. More unnecessary work for the maintenance staff.

As I reflect on the year, I am grateful for the staff I had, the people I have met, and the golf season that we put together. A few more weeks and we will be home free.

Will O'Brien, GCS Villa Roma

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### McCann Meeting.....recap

What a Day at McCann! We couldn't have asked for better weather for our September meeting - finally a break from the rain that has plagued McCann for the last two meetings that we had there. Huge thanks to everyone who came out to support Chris and the association. It was fantastic to see such a strong turnout!

A special shoutout to Chris and his crew for having the course in topnotch shape. Your hard work truly made the day memorable. And thank you to the Chef for the delicious food and to Renee for always being so charming and helpful.

I had the pleasure of playing alongside a father & son team, Ray & Jarad Demeo from ViTech Enterprises and my buddy Red Hewitt—what a great group to share a round with! You really do get to know folks when you spend 4 hours with them.

### **Event Results:**

Low Gross: Dave Lippman (71)

**2nd Low Gross:** \*Tie - Joe Meyer & Steve Whipple (76) Joe won by

match of cards

Low Net: Steve Spontak (62)

2nd Low Net: \*Tie - Grover Alexander & Chris Kemble (70) Grover

won by match of cards.

Long Drive: Mike Weber

Closest to the Pin #8 - Alex Cruz (7" 5")

Closest to Pin #12 - Steve Spontak (6" 8")

50/50 winners: Brian Bontemps & Guy Gurney

Susan













# **HVGCSA October Meeting**& Worthington Cup



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### **Osiris Country Club**

110 Country Club Road, Walden, NY Tuesday, October 7, 2025

Host: Reese Wasson

9:30 Registration

10:00 Brunch to Go

11:00 Golf: Shotgun - Format: Stroke

\*\*Handicap required when registering

3:30 Dinner, Open Bar & Awards

Fee: \$140 - Golf, Brunch, Dinner, Open Bar & Prizes

\$45 - After golf reception

Dress Code: Proper Golf Attire

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