

# FOREGROUND

VOL. 55 NO. 1 Published by Hudson Valley Golf Course Superintendents Association April, 2018



To Host  
**APRIL MEETING**  
4/24/2018



## Board of Directors

### President:

Grover Alexander, *Hudson Hills GC*

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Kevin O'Brien, *James Baird GC*

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Reese Wasson, *Spook Rock GC*

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Dave Lippman, *Westchester Turf Supply, Inc.*

### Newsletter Editor & Executive Secretary:

Susan O'Dowd

### 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*



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# President's Message



The 2018 golf season has officially begun? It's my privilege to serve as President of this great organization that has a rich history and is welcoming and supportive of its members. I would like to thank my predecessor, Dan Wilber, for doing an excellent job growing the Association under his leadership. Continuing the great work of our past leaders is my priority. The knowledge that we share within our association is priceless!

Also, I would like to welcome and thank our 3 new Board of Directors that are joining us in 2018 - Tim Walker, CGCS, Lee-wood GC, Ben Babbage, Storm King GC & Reese Wasson, Spook Rock GC. Remember, without volunteers we wouldn't have an association.

As President I want to make sure that our members are informed of what the HVGCSA has to offer. One of the programs that was started years ago is our Scholarship. I feel that the

membership is not taking full advantage of this program that offers three (3) fifteen hundred dollar scholarship awards to college bound kids each year (1) **Bill Smart** and (2) **Ernie Steinhofers Scholarships**. Also, don't forget about the **"Big Ticket Giveaway to the GIS."** This is a great opportunity for a Class A or B member that have not yet experienced the Green Industry Show.

I am looking forward to the next two years! With the support of our members and vendors, I feel our association is in a good place. Our vendor's support is vital to our association. So, please patronize their businesses as frequently as possible.

Most importantly, let's not lose sight and remember what's really important to us! Our families!! Turn off the phones, IPads, games, computers, and grab that time to hug your spouse, kids, dogs, and, of course, do not forget to play good golf. You can't always afford free!

See you at Patriot Hills - April 24th.

*Grover Alexander*



## "THE BIG TICKET" GIS Giveaway

### Criteria:

1. Must be active within the Association.
2. Must be a Class A, B, or CGCS member of the Hudson Valley and be in good standing.
3. Have not attended the GIS within the past 5 years.
4. Must submit a brief essay as to how the trip to GIS will benefit you and your facility.  
**Due by September 30, 2018**
5. Must submit a written article outlining your experience at GIS for the Foreground Newsletter.

\*Winner will be chosen by the Board of Directors.

\*The chosen candidate will not be eligible for another 5 years.

### Package Includes:

- ◇ Full Conference Registration
- ◇ Airfare
- ◇ 4 Nights Hotel
- ◇ 2 Educational Seminars (1 full day + 1 half day or the equivalent expense)
- ◇ \$200 spending allowance

# Hudson Valley News of Interest:

*By: Kevin Collins*

Congratulations to new HVGCSA President Grover Alexander who was recently elected to a two-year term. His first act was to fire the Executive Committee and the Directors of our fine organization. HVGCSA Executive Secretary is also rumored to be on the chopping block. Grover commented, "I like action, not discussion. I know what's good for the HVGCSA. I don't need any help." Recent reports have surfaced that Grover is in imminent danger of being impeached. Stay tuned.

I don't know about you but what is up with this insane weather? It's been much worse in New England as every Nor'easter has had hurricane force winds knocking down trees and power lines. I have a cottage that I rent in South Dartmouth on Buzzards Bay that I'm surprised it is still standing. There is a sign in the kitchen to remind me to latch the outside doors in case of high winds. Before one Nor'easter I couldn't remember if I had latched one of the doors so I asked a friend to stop by and check. She reported back that not only was the door missing but the hinges and screws too!! My Weber grill landed about two streets away. The last time I was up there my neighbor was cooking steaks on it. Oy Vey!!

HVGCSA Executive Secretary is still haunted by her legal woes. On her last trip to Ireland she had to seek sanctuary in a local church to avoid arrest and deportation back to US. Her troubles and alleged life of crime began when she started hanging out with the gypsies. Live and learn. If anyone needs to get in touch with Susan, please contact Our Lady of Perpetual Motion Parish in Galway, Ireland.

Just an update on Chris Strehl's bees at The Links. Let's just say the "buzz" is that they haven't moved a muscle since January. Replacements are on the way!!

We'll see you at Patriot Hills! Kevin



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# Joe Smyth & Patriot Hills Golf Club to Host the April Meeting

*By: Kevin Collins*



The first HVGCSA meeting of the 2018 season will be held at Patriot Hills Golf Club in Stony Point, NY on Tuesday, April 24th. Now, this is tentative since we might be hit with another Nor'easter. (only kidding).



Our host superintendent, Joe Smyth, came to Patriot Hills in 2001 as the grow-in super. The course opened in 2003 and plays 6500 yards and change from the championship tees. Joe is a big fan of the layout. "I love the course," Joe re-

marked, "The greens are well contoured, it's hilly but doesn't play hilly, and the views are great."

To know Joe is to know that he paid his dues to get to where he is today. Joe is a "blue collar" superintendent. "I started in the business working at Yacht End CC in Boca Raton in 1989," Joe remembered. "I moved to California and worked at two courses for about four years. I left to attend Penn State and completed the two-year turf program. I interned with Dave Mahoney at Siwanoy, worked for Bill Gaydosh at Round Hill as his second assistant and moved to Manhattan Woods and worked for Barry Anes when the course was being grown in. After a year and a half Barry left and I became the superintendent. I was there for four years in total." Joe also managed to create some balance in his life during this time, "I met my wife Beatrice in NYC. We've been married for 23 years". And now, at the end of this year, the happy couple will retire to Wyoming where they have purchased a nice "spread" to spend

their golden years.

Before heading to Patriot Hills, you may want to visit the sights in Stony Point. The Stony Point Battlefield State Historic Site commemorates the famous Revolutionary War Battle when a strongly fortified British fort at Stony Point was stormed and captured by General Anthony Wayne's American troops. Stony Point's Treason House was where General Benedict Arnold and Major John Andre met in 1780 to arrange for the betrayal of West Point to the British. Unfortunately, the Treason House was demolished and the Helen Hayes Orthopedic Hospital now occupies the site.



**Donate a "Round"**

**All proceeds goes to the  
HVGCSA**

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS CORNER

## Welcome New Board of Directors



### **Timothy Walker, CGCS, Leewood Golf Club**

Growing up in Reading, Pennsylvania about 45 minutes west of Philadelphia, Tim spent summers working with his Stepdad at his Landscaping Business. His first golf course job was at Exeter Golf Course in Reading, PA. Graduated in 2001 from Penn State with a BS in Turfgrass Science. His previous superintendents positions were in the Philadelphia area, Northern NJ and Orange County. He earned his Certified Golf Course Superintendents certificate in 2007. When Tim is not busy with his daughter Ashley (9) and son Eric (7) he enjoys golfing, fishing, traveling and attending Penn State Football games.

### **Ben Babbage, GCS, Storm King Golf Club**

Ben grew up outside of Detroit, Michigan and attended Michigan State University. His first position in New York was at Engineers C.C. on Long Island as an Assistant. While on the Island he met his wife, Gina. Ben has since had quite the tour of the Hudson Valley with various positions at Storm King Golf Club, Bedford Golf & Tennis Club, Wiltwyck Golf Club and finally returning back to his true home at Storm King. He currently lives with his family near Orange Lake in Newburgh. He has two children, Carter (11) and Morgan (8), who keep him busy with various sports, scouts and activities. Ben is also a real food enthusiast, and loves to cook for family and friends. If he isn't on the course, he is often hiking mountains and trails in the area.



### **Reese Wasson, GCS, Spook Rock Golf Club**

Graduated from the University of Rhode Island, B.S. Turfgrass Management and Environmental Horticulture. Reese started his career in the golf course business at the Orange County Golf Course, now West Hills Country Club. He spent 9 years on Long Island as a Superintendent and Asst. Supt. at The Hamlet Golf & Country Club, and Colonial Springs Golf Club. An avid sports fan and enjoys golfing and fishing.

# HVGCSA - April Meeting



## Patriot Hills Golf Club

19 Club House Ln, Stony Point, NY

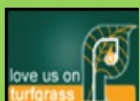
<b>Date:</b>	Tuesday, April 24, 2018 <b>"New Date"</b>
<b>Host:</b>	Joe Smyth
<b>Registration:</b>	9:00
<b>Golf:</b>	10:00 - Shotgun Start / Stroke Play
<b>Lunch:</b>	Box Lunch
<b>Social:</b>	2:30 - Buffet Dinner - Cash Bar - Awards
<b>Fee:</b>	\$ 95.00 pp - Golf/Lunch/Dinner \$ 35.00 pp - Dinner only
<b>Dress Code</b>	Proper Golf Attire

**To Register:** Click [HERE](#) or email [sodowd@mgagolf.org](mailto:sodowd@mgagolf.org)

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## Nor'easter Ski Day Recap at Killington - By: Andy Drohen



This year marked the largest field competing, with ten golf course superintendent associations from the Northeast journeying to Vermont and over 100 superintendents and industry representatives, along with their families, coming together for a day of camaraderie, skiing and friendly competition on the slopes of Vermont.

The race was held on Killington's black diamond "Highline" course where the Killington Mountain Race program trains all winter long. After hosting the women's World Cup again, we saw several of the Nor'easter Cup racers taking runs down the steep Super Star trail where the Olympians raced. Let's just say to them, "don't quit your day jobs!" Those ladies have no fear!

If the skiing and racing did not provide enough excitement for folks, then the Après Ski party at the Wobbly Barn proved a fine ending to a competitive day on the slopes. Support from our generous sponsors helped the folks at Killington provide great food and an open bar for a few hours after skiing. Proving this is the place to be during the winter, Killington provided highly discounted ski passes for the group and affordable pricing on lodging! Make sure to watch for dates for 2019 and join your associates for a great day on the slopes during the off-season!!

### Team Scores - Nor'easter Cup (Fastest 3 individual times totaled)

		<u>Time</u>
1 <sup>st</sup>	Vermont GCSA	1:17.75
2 <sup>nd</sup>	GCSA of New England	1:26.03
3 <sup>rd</sup>	NJGCSA	1:28.00
4 <sup>th</sup>	NHGCSA	1:28.05
5 <sup>th</sup>	Connecticut AGCS	1:29.05
6 <sup>th</sup>	RI GCSA	1:30.59
7 <sup>th</sup>	Northeastern GCSA	1:31.01
8 <sup>th</sup>	Long Island GCSA	1:32.00
9 <sup>th</sup>	Cape Cod	1:36.43
10 <sup>th</sup>	METGCSA	1:38.68

### Team Scores - VT Cup (Fastest 5 individual times totaled)

1 <sup>st</sup>	Vermont GCSA	2:19:56
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Northeastern GCSA	2:37:32

Photos of the race day can be viewed at: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/115230253@N04/sets/72157664643157477/>



## Cornhole Day!!



Just for FUN, camaraderie and to pass away a long winters' day, about 30 HVGCSA members and friends showed up at Millbrook Golf & Tennis maintenance shed for a friendly Cornhole competition and some tasty food. By the end of the day a winner was crowned (Team: Mike Weber and Millbrooks General Manager, Rick Hackenburg.)



## Save the Dates!

### May Meeting

Woodstock Golf Club  
Monday, May 14, 2018

### HV CUP

Rockland Country Club  
Monday, July 9, 2018

### August Meeting/NYSTA Challenge

The Links at Union Vale  
Monday, August 20, 2018

### September Meeting

Lazy Swan Golf Club  
Sept - TBD

### October Meeting

Beekman Golf Course  
Wednesday, October 10, 2018

## REMINDER!

If you don't have a **USGA GHIN number**.  
You can now obtain one through  
HVGCSA. There is no fee.  
Please contact our office 914-909-4843 or  
email [sodowd@mgagolf.org](mailto:sodowd@mgagolf.org)



## Member News

### New Member

Class B

**Matt Corbridge**, Blue Hill Golf Course

### Member on the move

**George Corgan**, now at Finch Services  
previously at Steven Willand, Inc.

### Condolences

Our sincere condolences to Ted Valentine on the  
passing of his beloved wife Jeanne on March 19<sup>th</sup>



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# Annual Meeting



**2018 HVGCSA Board:** Reese Wasson, Dave Lippman, Tim Walker, CGCS., Ben Babbage, Grover Alexander, Dan Wilber & Kevin O'Brien. (Missing from the photo is Chris Kemble & Chris Dyroff)



Steve Whipple, Christine Kane - Audubon Int'l & Tim Garceau, President of TSTRF



Grover Alexander presented a plaque to outgoing HVGCSA President Dan Wilber

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 25 YEAR PIN RECIPIENTS

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# Kevin Doyle: The Power of Personal Notes



To be brief, this is a message about the power of a personal note. I have written about the influence of using the phrase “thank you” in the past; this is a little different. I have always tried to incorporate the use of such notes, and encourage others to do so. The notes you will read below are special. They are real, come from an interesting source, and touch on a very important subject to those who received them. Some are very funny, others are very deep in meaning. All are a special way of thanking a golf course superintendent for exposing them to the game of golf, and more specifically, the role of a superintendent.

This year at the Golf Industry Show, several field staff representatives took part in a First Green field trip in conjunction with a GCSAA seminar. It was a great opportunity to participate in another field trip, my third, and see how others operate their student learning curriculums. After the on-site portion of the First Green trip, the group got to meet back at the convention center and hear from a panel of superintendents who have run trips at their facilities recently.

One of those on the panel was Ryan Kraushofer, general manager of Westminster National Golf Course, Westminster, Md. Kraushofer shed light on his course’s success with schools in his county and also noted the benefits he received as a turfgrass professional. Some of those benefits were at the personal level.

Within days after hosting his First Green field trip consisting of fifth graders, Kraushofer was to marry the love of his life. As a thank you, the students who visited had the ability to send their First Green host “Advice for the Newlyweds from a Fifth-Grader.” Kraushofer was kind enough to share some of the personal notes he received from the students. As a reminder, this is marital advice from fifth-graders!

*Dear the Kraushofers,*

*One of the things I recommend is to not talk about grass all the time your wife will get annoyed.*

---

*To Mr. and Mrs. Kraushofer:*

*Be nice to one another. I know it can be hard but at least try. Also, you should never argue either but if you do, admit it if you are wrong if you don’t it could end in more arguing. You should also go do sports that’s fun and enjoyable unless you are playing with competitive 5<sup>th</sup> graders, I should know. Golfing sounds good and where have I heard that before.*

---

*Dear Ryan,*

*Don’t always try to defend yourself. Also, don’t purchase pants without the wife’s consent. Have a good time and always offer to help. Shower her with pedals after the wedding.*

---

# GCSAA Resources and Deadlines

## EIFG Golf Facility Membership Program

The Golf Facility Membership Program recognizes a facility's commitment to advancing environmental stewardship. Through donations of \$250 or more, participants enable the EIFG to support and fund research, education, advocacy and more.

Participating facilities receive various forms of recognition from the EIFG and GCSAA as well as marketing materials to demonstrate their support to their patrons and community.

### **Let your facility know**

Promote your support of the EIFG with this [letter to facility members](#).

## 2018 Most Valuable Technician Award

Does your turf equipment technician deserve some much-needed recognition for the vital, behind-the-scenes role they play in the success of your golf facility? If so, he or she is eligible for *GCM's* Most Valuable Technician (MVT) awards program, presented in partnership with Foley United. Deadline soon, click [here](#) to nominate a deserving EM.

**2018 Most Valuable Technician Award:** ([Link to more information here](#))

## GCSAA Legacy Awards

The GCSAA Legacy Awards competition offers education aid to the children and grandchildren of GCSAA members. Awards of \$1,500 each are funded by Syngenta and the Environmental Institute for Golf. **Deadline of April 15<sup>th</sup>**.

## GCSAA Scholars Competition

These scholarships range from \$500 to \$6,000. Applicants must be enrolled in a recognized undergraduate program in a major field related to turf management, have completed at least 24 credit hours or the equivalent of one year of full-time study in the appropriate major, and be a member of GCSAA. **Deadline June 1<sup>st</sup>**.

## Upcoming FREE webcasts:

**Apr. 17**

[Hybrid Bermuda Diseases and Control Options](#) presented by *PBI Gordon*

*Maria Tomaso-Peterson, Ph.D.*

**Apr. 18**

[Manejo de malas hierbas en céspedes de campos de golf](#)

*Diego Gómez de Barreda Ferraz, Ph.D.*

**Apr. 24**

[Factors Influencing Growth Rate and Nutrient Requirements](#)

*Bill Kreuser, Ph.D.*

Kevin Doyle, GCSAA Field Staff

[kdoyle@gcsaa.org](mailto:kdoyle@gcsaa.org)

Follow me on Twitter @GCSAA\_NE

## ***HVGCSA Mission Statement:***

*The Hudson Valley Golf Course Superintendents Association exists to inform, educate and serve members within the Hudson Valley and surrounding areas.*