

FOREGROUND

VOL. 61 NO. 4 Published by Hudson Valley Golf Course Superintendents Association August 2024

CENTENNIAL GOLF CLUB

TO HOST

SEPTEMBER MEETING / WORTHINGTON CUP
& MET TEAM QUALIFIER



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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.



In This Issue

President's Message.....	4
Centennial to host Worthington Cup.....	6
Fond Farewell to a Friend.....	8
Last (2) Meeting Recaps.....	10
Hudson Valley News.....	12
Memorable Moments.....	16
Board of Directors Corner.....	20



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President's Message



Is that a collective sigh of relief I'm hearing around the Hudson Valley? I for one, am quite glad that the fall season appears to be upon us or at least rapidly approaching. Shorter days and cooler nights are a very welcome change from the past few months. 'Tis the season for aerification, fall projects, happy turf, and football! As a long-suffering Jets fan, hope springs eternal in September. Of course, that hope typically crashes back to Earth within a week or two, but hey, maybe this is our year. (History suggests it's not)

In August, the HVGCSA joined up with NYSTA for their annual golf event held at the new Monster Golf Club. All those able to make it were able to play the Rees Jones redesign and enjoy a great day. Tony Steppich and his staff have done a great job getting the course open and into great playing shape. The course and scenery is beautiful and having a casino next door only adds to the fun.

Glen Dube will be hosting our next meeting, the Worthington Cup, at Centennial Golf Club on September 16th. I hope to see everyone out there for what promises to be an excellent day and an opportunity to get away from our own courses for a day as the season begins to slow just a bit. Until then, enjoy the changing season.

Reese Wasson

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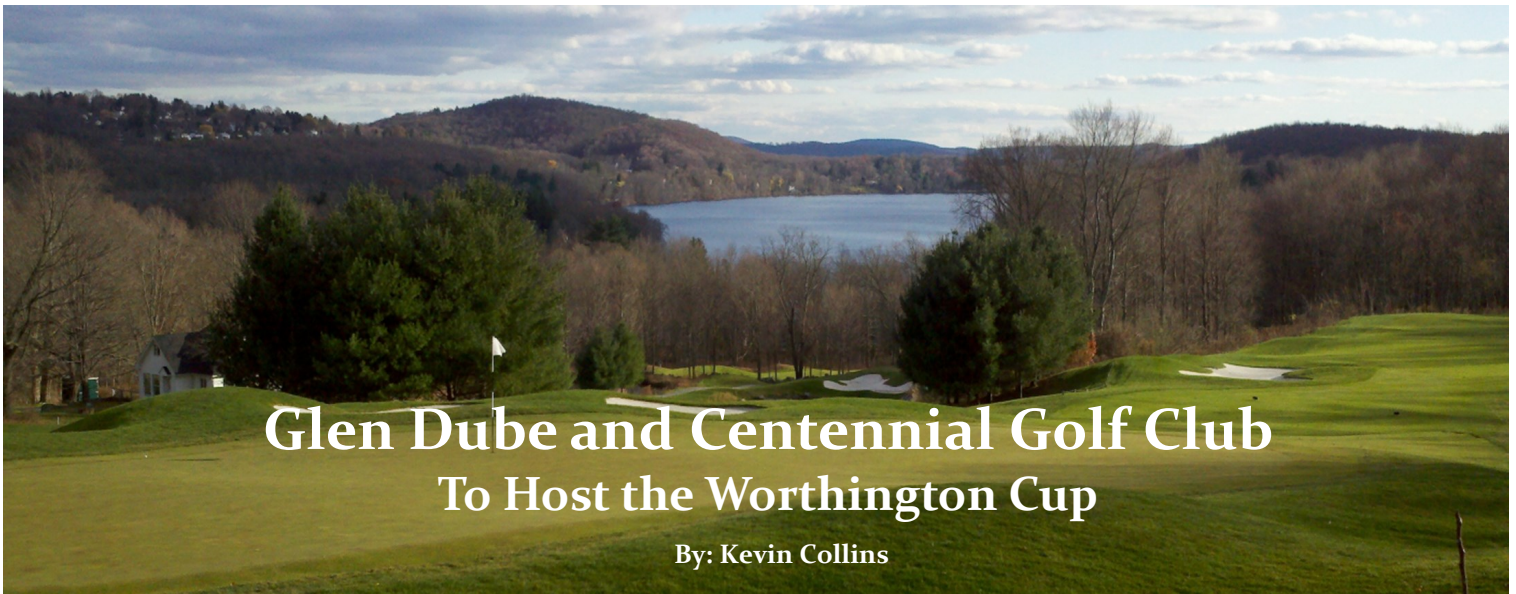
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Glen Dube and Centennial Golf Club To Host the Worthington Cup

By: Kevin Collins

On Monday September 16th, Glen Dube and Centennial Golf Club 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 Shawnee-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 Corp. (a turfgrass supply business in Saranac Lake, NY) in the 1940's. Ed would travel the Hudson Valley 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 establishing an annual tournament in his name. And here we are.

Centennial Golf Club, located in Putnam County, is a 27-hole championship course designed by Larry Nelson, a member of the World Golf Hall of Fame and winner of the US Open and two PGA Championships. With more than a dozen courses worldwide on his resume, Nelson has called the 340-acre property at Centennial with its rolling hills, ponds, natural rock outcroppings, and breathtaking views, "the most naturally suited to golf" he has ever seen. Between the three nine-hole courses, Meadows, Lakes, and Fairways, each one offers a totally distinct experience. For the "Cup", we'll be playing the Lakes/Meadows.

Early Glen



Glen was born in New Britain, CT to Joe and Laurie Dube in 1973. Joe Dube made his living as a Plant Superintendent for Aerospace Technologies, a jet engine and aerospace component manufacturer. Glen's mom, Laurie, was a stay at home mom taking care of all the important details for Glen and his little brother Paul. Glen attended Hubbard Grammar School and Berlin High School. "I was a happy-go-lucky kid and I loved sports," Glen laughed, "I played soccer and hockey and golf in high school."

Glen's path to his current profession began as a teenager when he secured employment at a landscape and garden center. So, after high school, Glen enrolled in the turf program at URI with an eye on landscape architecture. "I wasn't sure after I got there if I really wanted to pursue this particular major", Glen remembered, "I was hanging out and there was this tall lanky blond kid talking about a "dew whip". Not knowing what a dew whip was, I asked, and of course this tall lanky blond kid looked at me as if he couldn't believe I didn't know. After he

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A FOND FAREWELL TO A FRIEND AND LIFETIME MEMBER

Robert G. (Bob Sr.) Lippman peacefully passed away surrounded by his family on July 3, 2024, after a lengthy battle with cancer. He was 83 years old.

Bob Sr. was a lifetime member of the METGCSA, Hudson Valley GCSA, Connecticut AGCS and GCSAA. He was also active in the GCSANJ and LIGCSA. His career in golf began in 1962 at The St. Andrews Golf Club in Hastings on Hudson, New York, where he worked his way up the ranks to Assistant Golf Course Superintendent. He then attended The Pennsylvania State University where he earned a certificate in Turf Management while studying under Dr. Joseph Duich. While there he received a scholarship from the GCSAA based on his academic performance.



After graduation, Bob Sr. accepted the Superintendent position at The Orange County Golf Club (now West Hills Country Club). After two years, he decided to pivot towards a career in sales. First working for the Upjohn Corp. as a manufacturer's representative, he then went to work for The Andrew Wilson Co. in New Jersey. There he began selling direct to golf course superintendents in the Metro New York area.

In 1976 he decided to venture off on his own and start Westchester Turf Supply, Inc. Bob Sr.'s tireless devotion to his customers and service to the profession won him many loyal friends and customers, some spanning generations. He ran WTS for fifteen years until his sons Bob Jr. and Dave joined the company in 1991 and 2003 respectfully. The company he built is in its 48th year in business.

After retiring in 2004, Bob Sr. enjoyed a life filled with his passions; thoroughbred horse racing, classic cars, and most of all spending time in New York and Florida with his loving family and friends.

Bob Sr. is survived by his beloved wife of 57 years, Maria, his sister Gloria, sons Bob Jr. and Dave and daughter Monica as well as their spouses and six grandchildren.

Bob Sr. (AKA Upper Lip) made the fine turf profession his life's work. He devoted countless hours of participation and involvement towards the betterment of it. We know in our hearts that one of his biggest honors was to be able to serve the members of the industry he loved so much. All will miss him. A celebration of life event will be announced at a later date.

Bob and Dave Lippman

2024

Meeting Schedule

September 16th

September Meeting
& Worthington Cup
Centennial Golf Club
Carmel, NY

October 21st

Met Team
Championship
Whitemarsh Valley
Lafayette Hills, PA

November 30th

Tailgate Party
w/MetGCSA
Buffalo Pavilion
West Point, NY

December TBD

Year End Party
Patriots Lounge
Stony Point, NY

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LAST (2) MEETINGS RECAP

Wiltwyck Recap: A Hudson Valley Gem was showcased at our June 26th meeting at Wiltwyck. A course like many that has had its ups and downs over the years financial, and now it certainly seems to be heading the right way. Jason and his team had the course in terrific shape with conditions to match. The recent improvements at the clubhouse were also enjoyed after the round on the outdoor Bar/Patio area for dinner. It was a sizzler of a day but the staff had drinks available to enjoy throughout our visit

Results

2 Man Blind Draw: Shawn Westridge & Kevin Collins (-10)
(K.C. was not much help as Shawn shot a 72. Impressive indeed)

Closet to the Pin

Matt Kerens, Paramount Country Club, (2'9") Yes, the putt was made!

Longest Drive: Brian O'Malley, River Vale County Club

50/50 Winners

Jay Werbalowsky, Wallkill Golf Club
Bill Luthin, Retired AF member (Great to see a HV Legend)

Winding Hills Recap: Our July meeting brought us to Winding Hills. A gem of an 18 hole executive course. Steve and his staff are doing a tremendous job keeping up the property and course conditions. The layout was enjoyable to play, and fun was had by all during the day. The rain and T-Storms held off till the final holes which was nice as we just snuck in the round. The dinner following in the clubhouse was excellent. It was quite a humid day and the air conditioning was well received. Format for the round was a laid back 4 person scramble.

Results: The winning group was
Jay Werbalowsky, Tim Garceau,
Red Hewitt, & myself (-6)

Closet to the Pin

Chad Mathieu, Nutrien

Closet to the Pin

Evan Weymouth, Patriot Hills
(It wasn't close at all, but surprisingly the only ball to hit the green all day)

Thanks again to everyone involved for both events. It was a fun!. Hope to see everyone at Centennial on September 16th.

Cheers, Matt



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Hudson Valley News of Interest:

By: Kevin Collins



*It's said that nothing is more traumatic then when your children go off to college. I disagree. As Nutrien's Chad Mathieu discovered, having your child "fly the nest" doesn't even come close to the trauma of putting together the cheap-ass furniture he bought for his daughter's dorm room.



*Here's a great picture of Putnam National's Jeff Newell at his high school prom back in the day. Jeff hasn't changed a bit since that prom long ago. He had no hair then, he has no hair now. And what little hair he had then was gray, now it's white. He kind of looks like Joe Biden, doesn't he?



*Storm King's Ben Babbage is truly an "Army of One." He is building the new golf course completely on his own. Completion date is estimated to be the Fall of 2035.



*PJ Rotella's Chris Dyroff has a new hobby, brewing his own beer. So, why does Chris look so unhappy in this picture? I'll tell you why. He just tasted his latest batch and it tastes like shit.



*We have a new contest for the HV News. If anyone can guess whose ancestral home this is (not counting its current occupant), you will be treated to an entire afternoon of heavy drinking with KC and my photographer "Big Sexy" at Rosy's in Danbury, CT. All submissions should be sent to kpc10512@yahoo.com. The winner will be announced in the next issue of "The Foreground".



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2024 Scholarship Recipient



Ella receiving her award from Reese Wasson

Congratulations to Ella Werbalowsky our 2024 Scholarship Recipient.

Ella is an excellent student finishing in the top 10 of her class. She credits her dad Jay Werbalowsky, Golf Course Superintendent at Wallkill Golf Club for his strong support and encouragement over the years.

Ella will be starting her freshman year at Millersville University studying Biology and Animal Science.

We wish you every success & happiness in your future. Good luck with your studies!

Welcome New Member

Class A

James Kozala, Jr.

Hickory Hill Golf Course

Condolences

Our condolences to Dave & Bob Lippman on the passing of their father and long time HVGCSA member, Robert Lippman, Sr, on July 3, 2024

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Criteria:

1. Must be a Class A, B or C member of the Hudson Valley GCSA and be in good standing
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3. Have not attended the GCSAA Conference & Show within the past 5 years
4. Must submit a brief essay as to how the trip will benefit you and your facility.

5. Must submit a written article outlining your experience for the Foreground Newsletter

*Winner will be chosen by the Board of Directors

* The Chosen candidate will not be eligible for another 5 years

[Due by September 30, 2024](#)

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MEMORABLE MOMENTS & EXPERIENCES

Kevin Doyle, Northeast GCSAA Field Rep



It's not often I write about items of a personal nature for this newsletter. It mixes work, so I guess it connects there too. Recently I volunteered for my 20th tournament, and as of this writing I am undertaking my 21st event. They are all special, different and memorable for a variety of reasons.

There are some common themes and some uncommon circumstances. Often that is what makes each event so enjoyable. I'd like to dive into some of the things I have learned,

experienced and continue to look forward to for the rest of event number 21 and beyond.

My earliest events were a bit scary. While recently removed from the superintendent life and unafraid to tackle any task, I was new to my field staff role. I was unsure where tournament volunteering fit into my position. My first event was the US Junior Amateur hosted by the Golf Club of New England in Stratham, N.H. It was the first USGA event played in the state of New Hampshire, and superintendent Jeff Baker and staff had the course dialed in. It was my first look at early hours, extremely large bunkers and the pride staff and volunteers took in preparing the golf course. I was offered the chance to stay in my cousin's camper twenty minutes away to defray costs, but really began to see the role people played and the networking possibilities in event volunteering. A few shifts later in 2012 at the Deutsche Bank Championship under superintendent Tom Brodeur and the great staff at TPC Boston and I was hooked. What a great opportunity to meet people and enjoy working on the golf course too!

At Sebonack Golf Club for the 2013 US Women's Open, I learned what the



definition of large bunkers actually was, with over six acres of sand! Whether it is mowing fairways, raking bunkers, filling divots, data and green speed, washing off equipment, or on a squeegee after almost six inches of rain at Baltusrol, every task is important to the overall goal of preparing the golf course for the

best golfers in the world. Yes, even washing off nearly 90 pieces of equipment, twice a day, for seven days can be rewarding.

I find the people involved and the relationships that are built to be critical to my role as your field staff representative. Assisting the host superintendent

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Glen Dube and Centennial Golf Club....cont'd



The Career Begins

Glen's first assistant position was at Silver Springs CC working with Peter Rappoccio. "I worked for Peter from the spring of 1995 till February of 1998. Besides the agronomic education I got from Peter, probably the most important thing he taught me was how to handle the membership and talk to people. I learned a lot from Peter."

In March of 1998, Glen took over as superintendent at Oak Hills Park GC in Norwalk, CT. "It was a fine place to work, I lived on the property. The members were very proud of the course. During my time there, we installed a new irrigation system, installed internal drainage on some trouble greens, did a lot of tree work, did a lot of detail work, and generally improved the aesthetics and playability of the course".

In 2006, with an assist from industry icon Joe Stahl (my Jets tailgate partner) and Pine Hills GC Superintendent Joe Felicetti (Centennial & Pine Hills are owned by the same family), Glen was hired as superintendent at Centennial Golf Club in Carmel, NY. "Centennial is a huge property, 27 holes and 200 plus acres of turf to maintain. It's a "high end" public tract, members and players expect great conditions." Ably assisted by assistant's Travis Teeter, Jim King, and Equipment Manager Pete Acocella, plus a crew of 17, they get the job done.

Family

Glen has three great kids, Madison 22, who is starting out as a RN after graduating from URI this past spring, and sons Jake 17, who Glen just dropped off at Roger Williams University in Rhode Island to begin his freshman year with an eye on an Engineering degree, and Brayden 13, who'll be in high school in another year. They grow up quick.

So, we'll see you all at Centennial in September. - KC

explained the intricacies of this turf tool we struck up a conversation which had a lot to do with me being where I am today. Yes, the tall lanky blond kid was Blake Halderman."

Now firmly established in the turf program, Glen garnered some valuable experience working his first tournament event, the Greater Hartford Open at TPC River Highlands. "I worked on the crew, raking bunkers and mowing greens. There was an assistant there who had graduated from UMASS, Paul Dooley, and he took me under his wing and educated me on turfgrass diseases, cup cutting, maintenance practices, and all the things you need to know," Glen reminisced, "On the Sunday of the tournament I was mowing the 14th green, double cut, when Paul came up and told me that he needed me to finish mowing the greens on 15, 16, 17 and 18. And, he said there were players already on the 12th hole. I hustled and finished the 18th just as some players were walking up to their shots on the 18th fairway."

Glen's first URI internship was at the CC of Darien with Tim O'Neill in 1993. In 1994, Blake, that tall lanky blond kid, got Glen an internship at Muirfield Village where he bunked with his buddy Blake and Blake's then girlfriend Kristin. Glen graduated from URI in 1995.

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By: Tim Walker, CGCS

Another Season To Remember

What a season we have had this year. From a dry end of winter to a wet early spring, a hot and humid summer sprinkled with some rain, and whatever is yet to come. Whatever you are dealing with, know that there is probably someone else who is experiencing the same thing. As we close out the summer season over the next few weeks, my favorite part of the season comes, Fall. Fall is a great time of year. Golf slows down perhaps, recovery comes, projects get underway, and the season closes, and we get to review what worked and did not work this past season and strategize for next year. Oh, and football is back... whether you are into college or pro football, it doesn't really matter. The only thing that matters is the Steelers fire their Coach and rebuild. And I would be amiss if I didn't mention the World Series, Go Phillies!

Speaking of this past season, it was wet early which impeded spring cultural practices and recovery from that wild fall of 2023 (I am certain everybody recalls that deluge at Quaker Hill which was then followed with about 2 months of heavy rain). Perhaps spring projects were delayed in wrapping up or growing in any seed or sod. We had 52 inches of rain at Leewood from September through May (September 14 inches and October was 5.5 inches). Then, we thought we were out of the hydroponic growing conditions at the end of winter, how wrong we were...we had 9.2 inches in March. The flood barriers went back out to open the golfing season. Ropes everywhere, cart paths all around, and extreme difficulty getting the thin spots to fill in and recover let alone incorporate more seed.

After mid-April we had ½ an inch the rest of the month. We started removing roped areas and finally getting some work started in terms of recovery, and

bam...the second half of May brought almost 4 inches of rain. Here we go, as the season is beginning to take-off with Memorial Day on the horizon, not what anyone wanted. June did not get much better, however, the heat started to turn on for Father's Day week. However, there was a reprieve to close the end of the month, but it gave us almost 2 inches of rain.

July is a tough month no matter what, but the first 17 days yielded 3.1 inches of the months total 3.33 inches. The downside to this was the intense heat and very high dew points. Heat warnings and air quality warnings we almost a daily news topic. I couldn't wait for August to get here and kept thinking about how long July is and I felt like Bill Murray, no not from Caddyshack, but from Groundhog Day. Everyday was the same, cruise around the course, water deficient areas, keep loading the sprayers, and syringing turf every afternoon. The only way to keep track of what day it was is based on what we were mowing. Fairways are mowed Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

August finally arrived, and we were under a Tropical Storm warning. Oh, did I forget to mention the stationary front that was passing through the area slightly ahead of the tropical storm? Well, the stationary front dropped more rain than the tropical storm. In the first 10 days of August, we had 8 days of rain for a total of 4.84 inches. August 1st, no rain and high temperature 93 degrees and August 5th, no rain and high temperature of 89 degrees. Now, we have waterlogged turf, a tired staff, debris all over the golf course from the tropical storm, and bird baths with rotting grass. Open for play on a beautiful but very warm weekend, cart path all the way around and trying to clear as much debris as possible with noise ordinance and a packed tee

Continuedpage 22



A MERGER THAT HAS TURF AT HEART

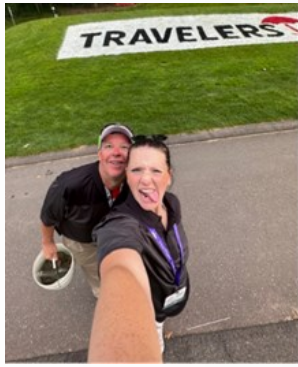
Aquatrols® and the turf division of **Precision Laboratories™**, two of the leading brands in turf management, have merged to form The Aquatrols Company. This merger brings together the most comprehensive portfolio of soil surfactant and adjuvant products in the industry.

The Aquatrols Company will continue to offer the full line of Aquatrols and Precision Laboratories soil surfactants, as well as Precision Laboratories tank mix adjuvants, colorants and additives. **VerdeLNX™**, a novel line of advanced nutrient products, will be added to the portfolio in early 2024.

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and staff in achieving their goal is really the most important task. Spending time with local superintendents, meeting assistants who might never get the chance to attend a regular association event, interns looking to find a successful path into this industry are many of the regular volunteers at events and a pleasure to get to know. Having a chance to possibly impact their careers with GCSAA

resources and following them as they advance is always rewarding. I've enjoyed meeting industry peers from UK, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, and many other countries, many of whom I still keep in contact with. Thanks to her boss, superintendent Ben Bouchard, I had the chance to volunteer with my youngest daughter at the 2023 Travelers Championship, a memory I will never forget.

Every event I have attended have had the support of so many industry partners. I can't thank them enough for their support of the events occurring so frequently around the region. The food, the swag and ultimately the enhanced enjoyment your generosity provides to the many volunteers wouldn't happen without you. Please know how deeply appreciative all volunteers are of your support.

I've had discussions with many regarding paying those who spend the time working on the grounds at events. While I don't completely understand the financial impact of hosting these events, it is a valid point of view. Perhaps the majors and other premium events could afford to do so, but I have worked events where it just didn't seem like the revenue gained would make it possible. Also, would that change the dynamic of the individuals who volunteer? Would it be young professionals looking to learn and advance in golf course maintenance, or others looking just to get a few extra dollars? A discussion for another day.

Honestly, need to wrap this up and get back for my afternoon shift at the 2024 U.S. Senior Open at Newport Country Club. If you have never volunteered, consider it. If you have a young, aspiring professional who might benefit from the learning and networking experience, try and facilitate that opportunity. To our valued vendor partners, thank you again. I'm already looking forward to the opportunities and networking experiences 2025 has in store!

Kevin Doyle, GCSAA

BOARD OF DIRECTORS CORNER

Another Season To Remember...cont'd

sheet. Good luck, I know. I forgot to mention, we mowed as much as we could possibly mow on Thursday...now we have to get to Monday to be able to mow most anything aside from greens. We have an outing, and scheduled tee aerification for Monday. Well, as you could guess, after about a week and a half of not much sun, lots of moisture, and a couple of very warm and sunny days, the grass exploded. The bird baths melted out and everything else was loving life. Forget the 1/3 rule we mowed what we could while aerifying and cleaning the tees for a 12:00 shotgun.

As someone much older and much wiser once told me, it's just grass. Some will not make it through the season, but it will come back. As we are known to be perfectionists, there will be bumps and bruises, and another wiser person told me, if you don't kill any grass, you weren't trying hard enough. Aerification season is either coming up or it's happening now...we got some great days ahead for it, albeit a little extra sunshine and lower dew points will require extra attention, but it could be worse.

With that, know that your peers are in the same boat.

Have a great end of season!

Tim

HVGCSA September Meeting

Worthington Cup/ Met Team Qualifier



PLATINUM SPONSORS



Centennial Golf Club

185 John Simpson Road, Carmel, NY

Monday, September 16, 2024

Host: Glen Dube

11:00 Registration
Box Lunch

12:00 Golf: Shotgun - **Format:** Stroke
****Handicaps required when registering****

4:30 Dinner, Open Bar & Prizes

Fee: \$175 - (Lunch, Golf, Dinner & Open Bar)
\$ 70 - (Dinner/Open Bar)

Dress Code: Proper Golf Attire

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