

FOREGROUND

VOL. 55 NO. 6 Published by Hudson Valley Golf Course Superintendents Association November, 2018



Year End Social Event

SLOOP BREWING CO.

December 6th

11:30 AM - 1:30 PM

Board of Directors

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AF Rep:

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

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



Finally, an end to a tough season! I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving! As we go forward into the winter months, I'm sure we will look back and ask ourselves, how did we manage to pull it off? In this industry there's constant pressures from all directions, and how we deal with it usually shows our peers what type of person we are. At the end of the day, no matter what life presents to us, we still have to get up and provide for our families. So, enjoy the winter! Before you know it, Spring will be here!

Year End Event: The HVGCSA Board of Directors made a unanimous decision to treat our members & guests to lunch at Sloop Brewing on December 6th. We hope to see you all there!

Annual Meeting: Please make sure you save the date for our Annual Meeting on January 29th. As always, we need your support! This year it will be held at the Resorts World Catskills in Monticello in conjunction with NYSTA's Southeast Conference. **Board Members:** We are always looking for members to join the board, so please reach out to us if you are interested. If you can't join the board? Think of others ways you can contribute.

Sponsors: I can't thank our sponsors enough for all that they do. Our association is doing well financially because of our sponsors. Please make sure you thank them and support them in anyway you can.

I would like to wish all our members a happy & healthy Holiday Season!

All the best!

Grover

Southeast Regional Conference

January 29 - 30, 2019
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The perfect weather day it was not, but temperatures did rise and the Hudson Valley team consisting of eight guys from our association made their way down to Bedminster, NJ for a chance at the top hardware again (we will always remember the *Miracle at Stanwich in 2012*). Upon arrival we approached a gate with a low profile sign signifying “HF”, letting us know we were in the right place. Driving through part of the golf courseand equine center, we finally wound up at the clubhouse. Winter hats and gloves were donned on the putting green for added warmth to start the day. After a hearty brunch, we were on our way and by that time it had warmed enough where you could not see your breath anymore.

Hamilton Farms was a treat to play, from its well placed bunkers (it seemed like I was in them all day), to its wide fairways, and great vistas from most tee boxes, especially #17 and #18. Our local Hudson Valley team placed ninth out of thirteen associations. Not the best, but we will be invited back for 2019! Results from our team play are as follows:

Gross Team (played from 7,100 yards)

Dave Lippman and Tim Walker 85

Grover Alexander and Reese Wasson 80

Net Team (played from 6,500 yards)

Dan Wilber and Dick Neufeld 76

Jim Biordi and Chris Kemble 78

We are so fortunate to be invited to this well run event which is organized by Andy Drohen and Blake Halderman. Dave Dudones and Kevin Doyle also helped out in a big way as well. Another gentleman that has been at every event since I’ve been going is Shawn Berry. Shawn captures all the highlights of the day with his photo lens and is always breaking a tense moment with a laugh. The MET team took home first place. If I’m not mistaken, I thought I heard Andy say this was the MET’s first crown at this event.....Congrats brothers! On a side note, Brian Bontemps was on the host New Jersey squad which finished in third place. Here is the final breakdown:

MET	296
Connecticut	298
New Jersey	301
Long Island	303
Philadelphia	304
Cape Cod	308
Central NY	316
Poconos	317
Hudson Valley	319
Northeastern	321
New England	324
Eastern Shore	329
Mid Atlantic	376

I’m not sure, but the team from Mid Atlantic might just have had the highest net team total in the history of the event. In any case, it’s a great end of the year tournament and a great way to meet some new fellow turf guys. We missed you Mr. Whipple!

Dan Wilber

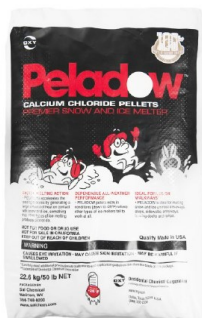
Past President HVGCSA



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November 2018

BOARD OF DIRECTORS CORNER

2018 Chapter Delegates Meeting



It was my pleasure to be the chapter delegate for the HVGCSA on November 14th at GCSAA headquarters. The main focus of the board seems to be the growth of the organization. They are looking to add some categories to increase our member numbers. Larger numbers will help our voices be heard in government. The category that intrigued me the most was the equipment manager.

This category is only \$75.00 and will give your equipment manager access to information to better perform their job.

The rounds 4 research is continuing to grow, and it give us the tools we need to sustain the golf course industry. I'm sure most of you believe that nobody will bid on your facility, as did I. What I found successful this year was to inform the members or individuals who already play at your golf course about this program. I had my regulars bidding to give to a friend. Every small donation helps! There's almost no cost to the golf course and we get exposure.

The following is a summary of the meeting: If you have any questions contact Kevin Doyle, kdoyle@gcsaa.org. Kevin is the GCSAA New England field rep. If you haven't met him yet, I recommend it. He does a great job for our association and is ready to help if you would like to get involved.

Association Report – GCSAA CEO, Rhett Evans briefed delegates on the state of GCSAA. GCSAA has over 18,000 members, 97 affiliated chapters and 2 affiliated international chapters. Mr. Evans discussed the development of programs and services for equipment managers and assistant superintendents. These programs and services are aimed at strengthening the golf course management team. GCSAA is increasing its efforts with students as well – all with the intention of building for the future. Membership is the lifeblood of GCSAA and paramount to the advancement of the profession and vitality of the game. Mr. Evans reviewed GCSAA's total and professional membership trends from 2008 through the present day. The good news shared with the delegates is that total and professional membership is trending upwards. When there are more members to collectively participate in programs and initiatives, it helps the profession and industry succeed. Having a louder voice is vital with our advocacy efforts and having more hands to assist with key initiatives or board service provides benefits at all levels national, local and individual. There is strength in numbers.

Rounds 4 Research – The delegates celebrated the success of the top five-chapter fundraisers in the 2018 Rounds 4 Research Auction. Overall, the auction brought in \$312,239 and saw a 24% increase in rounds donated and a 21% increase in the number of rounds sold. The attendees heard from several delegates who outlined what made their chapter successful. Organization and having a Rounds 4 Research committee at the chapter level were noted as important. Chapters just need to solicit the rounds to donate – the EIFG will administer the rest of the program. The 2019 auction will be held on April 29 – May 5. Call or email Mischia Wright, Associate Director, EIFG at 800-472-7878, or mwright@gcsaa.org.

State BMP Implementation – The delegates received an update on GCSAA's goal to have all 50 states with a BMP in place by 2020. Mark Johnson, Associate Director, Environmental Programs thanked all the chapters that have been working diligently on making this goal a reality. There are currently:

10 states with a BMP in place

10 states will finish up in 2018

20 states have told GCSAA they will finish up in 2019

The remaining 10 states are anticipated to be complete by 2020



Mr. Johnson advised that the second phase of the BMP project is facility adoption. Regional and state workshops will start in 2019 to assist chapters in training superintendents on how to write their facility BMP plan. GCSAA asked the delegates to encourage their chapter leaders to complete BMP programs this winter. Reach out to Mark Johnson with questions at 800-472-7878 or mjohnson@gcsaa.org.

Chapter Outreach/Field Staff Initiatives:

Steve Randall, Director, Chapter Outreach gave a brief overview of the Field Staff program and highlighted several new initiatives. Field Staff live and work in one of the 9



HVGCSA

YEAR END SOCIAL EVENT

Sloop Brewing Co. @ The Factory

755 East Drive #106, East Fishkill, NY 12533

Thursday, December 6th

Open Bar & Food

11:30pm - 1:30pm

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Fee: No Cost

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Last Meeting Recap.....Worthington Cup at Beekman GC

Our Last Meeting of the season was held at Beekman Golf Course hosted by Steve Spontak, CGS. This was our Annual Worthington Cup Tournament where all members compete for the coveted trophy. We had great weather! 70's and sunny. Of course, it rained non stop for the month prior...all reading this can relate. Steve and his staff had the place in great shape in spite of mother nature. This meeting was also the qualifying round for the Met Team Championship. We had over 30 attendees and all were treated to great golf, thank you Steve, and great food, BBQ ribs and pulled pork with all the fixins, thank you Steve again! Steve specializes in this type of cuisine using his home made smoker/cooker and is renowned throughout the Hudson Valley.



Golf Awards:

Congratulations to our Worthington Cup Winner, Dave Lippman, Westchester Turf Supply, for defending his title.

(Alex the chef came in lower, but as a non member, did not qualify)



First Low Net: Jim Biordi, Dogwood Knolls GC

Second Low Net: Dan Wilber, Millbrook Golf & Tennis

Long Drive: Dave Lippman, Westchester Turf Supply

Closest to Pin: Dom Buccellato, College Hill GC & Susan O'Dowd

50/50 winners: Mike Weber, Fisher and Son, Ryan Avery, Grass Roots, Chad Mathieu, Site One, and Kevin Doyle, GCSAA, who always has to win something.

Thanks again to all at Beekman for their hospitality. Thanks to our Board Members who always step up and make things run smoothly. Thanks to Dan Madar for taking time out of his busy schedule to play 19 holes with us. This was our last monthly meeting for the season and I hope everyone enjoyed themselves. Please come out and support our Annual Meeting and the NYS-TA Southeast Conference to be held at the new Casino in Monticello this coming January.

That's all folks!

Bill Luthin



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Board of Director's Corner...Delegate's Meeting...cont'd

regions which cover the United States and Ontario, CAN. GCSAA strives to support its affiliated chapters and assist in their success through the personalized support provided by the field staff. A few of the priority programs include:

- Chapter Board Orientation Toolkit and Session
- Chapter Executive Regional Conferences
- Strategic Planning Sessions
- First Green Program Assistance
- Site Visits/GCSAA Board Outreach

Equipment Manager Task Group Update – Kevin Sunderman, Vice Chair, Equipment Manager Task Group briefed the delegates on current and future initiatives. GCSAA offers education specifically for equipment managers at the Golf Industry Show. There are EM live and on-demand webinars, as well as the popular Five-Minute Fix videos. GCSAA has tools and templates on the website for equipment managers. The Turf Equipment Technician Certificate Program (TETCP) has two levels. Future initiatives include EM First Green curriculum, EM self-assessment tool and an EM certification program.

Candidate Road Map to Board Service – The Nominating Committee recently completed work on a Candidate Road Map to Board Service. The road map will reside on GCSAA's website and will provide information for individuals interested in running for the GCSAA Board of Directors. The committee asked that delegates review this information prior to the creation of the webpage. Suggested experience for candidates included chapter board of director service and volunteering for GCSAA committees. The delegates suggested adding quotes from the employers of board members highlighting the benefits of board service from an employer perspective.

Board Policy Oversight Task Group (BPOTG) – The BPOTG was created to act as an independent task group that meets every three years to address various issues related to GCSAA support of board service. The standard operating procedures document that outlines all the support received by the Board of Directors was shared with the delegates via their GCSAA Delegates Meeting notebook. It is also on the GCSAA website. The 2018 BPOTG offered several recommendations that were shared with the delegates. The GCSAA Board of Directors will consider these recommendations at their next meeting.

CPI Dues Process - GCSAA has a long-term membership dues pricing structure that ties a proposed dues in-

crease to the Consumer Price Index (CPI). The GCSAA Board makes a recommendation to the membership on changes to A, B or C membership dues every two years based on the CPI. The CPI increased by 4.5% over the past two years and this translates to a proposed \$20 dues increase for Class A/B and a \$10 increase for Class C bringing the new dues amounts to \$400 for Class A/B and \$205 for Class C. This proposed increase will be voted on at the Annual Meeting.

Government Affairs Update – Chapter delegates learned about the myriad of legislative, regulatory and political issues facing the industry. Delegates heard case studies that demonstrate why “strength in numbers” has a positive impact as GCSAA strives to make sure golf's voice is heard at all levels of government, including direct lobbying on the Farm Bill, WOTUS and H-2B. Delegates also listened to recent efforts surrounding the GCSAAPAC, Grassroots Ambassadors and National Golf Day.

Membership Retention and Growth Strategy

GCSAA's strength in numbers would be enhanced by improving membership retention and increasing new member growth. There are approximately 7,500 (out of 15,000) golf courses without a GCSAA member. The delegates listened to several growth strategies to lure new members and a rewards program to help retain existing members. These strategies were:

Friends of the Golf Course Superintendent

The Friends classification would target golfers and potential advocates. These individuals would receive limited benefits and content. Suggested dues would be \$50 to \$75. Delegates will vote on this proposed bylaws addition in February.

Facility Classification - Is aimed at smaller budget facilities, suggested dues \$200, would not be able to vote or hold office. Delegates will vote on this proposed bylaws additional the Annual Meeting.

Rewards or Loyalty program for existing members – Items within the program could be crew development plans, savings on CGCS, TETCP and ASCS. Extra perks at tournament and GIS. This program does not require a vote or change to the bylaws.

Incentivizing Members to Add Additional Members –GCSAA is proposing a strategy to incentivize existing members/golf facilities to add new GCSAA



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Kevin Doyle....GCSAA



For the longest time newsletters seemed to teem with GCSAA government affairs news. With various acts and regulations consistently having an impact on our industry, it seemed all I would write about was legislative gloom and doom. While it may seem the change in administration has magically made the political nightmares disappear, I assure you that is not the case.

[WOTUS: should I stay, or should I go?](#)

The Waters of the United States 2015 rule set for enactment until a last-minute stay from the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals is back in the mix. As noted on the GCSAA website Advocacy page:

On Aug. 16, 2018, the U.S. District Court for the District of South Carolina issued a ruling enjoining nationwide the Trump Administration's rule that delayed, until February 2020, implementation of the Obama WOTUS Rule. The district court's decision was based on procedural grounds – the court said the Trump delay rule violated the Administrative Procedure Act (APA) because EPA and the Corps didn't take comment on the substance of the Obama WOTUS Rule or the prior regulations that would stay in place during the delay of the Obama Rule.

The WOTUS 2015 rule is now in effect for 26 states, including every state in the Northeast region, Massachusetts included. There is an appeal pending and an often-updated blog on the Advocacy page expands on these critical updates. More to come as decisions are made.

[EPA: active ingredient registration review](#)

EPA has continued the review of active ingredients currently registered for use within the golf market. I have been tasked with assisting in developing regionally specific information regarding the use of those products by our membership. Several university scientists and members have joined conference calls with the EPA, while others have given comments on use patterns and importance of products to their livelihood. GCSAA's government affairs department and your GA committee have been instrumental in turning this once-contentious regulatory relationship into a sounding board for industry input. Chlorpyrifos has been one such active ingredient in the spotlight. In August, the EPA was mandated by the courts to remove the product from sales in the US. In late September, the Department of Justice called for an appeal of that ruling, a judgement lauded by the USDA. For those battling resistant ABW's, this is a critical tool in the toolbox.

Again, look to the Advocacy page for updates as this product soap opera continues.

[Michael Lee wins RISE 2018 Grassroots Excellence Award](#)

GCSAA's Michael Lee, manager, government affairs, earned the 2018 Grassroots Excellence Award from Responsible Industry for A Sound Environment (RISE) at its annual meeting Sept. 25 in Amelia Island, Fla. Lee was honored for his work to engage GCSAA members in Maryland and Maine in responding to anti-pesticide bills working through state legislatures last spring. Lee's proactive and strategic support and engagement with superintendents on the ground in those states lead to the defeat of the bills as announced by RISE staff at the meeting.

It takes a village to move the needle in the political arena. With strong leadership in GCSAA's government affairs department, an active corps of GCSAA Grassroots Ambassadors (still spots left in New Jersey), and members participating in local and state initiatives, our industry continues to build momentum. For those who have participated in advocacy, thank you. If you haven't, consider a way to contribute because every voice matters.

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

Kevin Doyle
GCSAA Field Staff kdoyle@gcsaa.org

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Delegate's Meeting.....cont'd

members at their facility. Incentives would depend on the number of new members that were added. Delegates would be asked to vote on a proposed bylaw change that would allow the Board of Directors flexibility in creating these incentives. Class A, B and C dues would not exceed the amount that is set by the members at the Annual Meeting.

The delegates discussed these retention and growth strategies in the large assembly and in small group breakouts. A straw poll showed support for all four strategies. However, the Board of Directors would like to host follow-up conference calls with the delegates prior to the Annual Meeting to answer any questions and to provide additional details. The GCSAA Board of Directors and delegates participated in an open format town hall session.

Candidate Presentations and Breakouts – The candidates for the 2019 GCSAA Board of Directors gave presentations and visited delegates in breakout rooms. The delegates were awarded ample time to interact and ask questions of the candidates.

Those running for the **2019 GCSAA Board of Directors** are:

For President – Rafael Barajas, CGCS

For Vice President – John R. Fulling, Jr., CGCS

For Secretary/Treasurer

Kevin P. Breen, CGCS

Mark F. Jordan, CGCS

For Director (electing three directors)

T.A. Barker, CGCS

Paul L. Carter, CGCS

Doug D. Dykstra, CGCS

Jeff L. White, CGCS

If Mark Jordan is not voted in as the secretary/treasurer, he may be nominated as a candidate for director from the floor. Kevin Breen is in the middle of his two-year term as director. If unsuccessful in his bid for secretary/treasurer, Breen will remain as director to finish his term. There are three open positions for director, with T.A. Barker, CGCS, Jeff L. White, CGCS and Mark Jordan, CGCS at the end of their terms. All three open director terms will be for two-year terms. If Kevin Breen is elected secretary/treasurer, the remaining year of his director term will be filled through the voting process. As a reminder the process for electing directors changed at last year's Annual Meeting. Each director position will be voted on one at a time. Therefore, there will be separate ballots cast to fill each open director position.

Well, the season to forget is now over! I hope to see you all at a few events this winter! Our tournament committee has some great meeting sites set up for next year. Always remember that we are on this earth one time, and it's up to us to make the best of it. We are fortunate to have a great job even with its ups and downs. My motto is....Don't live to work, Work to live! Come out and enjoy some of the events, the golf course will still be there when you get back. We have a good group of people in this association. Networking will only help you become a better superintendent and you'll make some new friends along the way.

Enjoy the holidays!

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GCSAA Upcoming Webinars

Dec. 5 @ 10 a.m.

Implementing the Latest University Research into your Snow Mold Program
presented by PBI Gordon Paul Koch, Ph.D.

Dec. 6 @ noon

ABCs of Irrigation System Design part of the ASCS Prep series
Ashley Wilkinson

Dec. 13 @ 2 p.m.

The Value of Volunteering part of the equipment management series Trent Manning

Dec. 18 @ 10 a.m.

Implementing the Latest Solutions for Managing Grassy Weeds presented by Syngenta
Dean Mosdell, Ph.D., and Lane Tredway, Ph.D.

Dec. 20 @ noon

What's Really in that Fertilizer part of the ASCS Prep series
Beth Guertal, Ph.D.

Jan. 8 @ 10 a.m.

Leading from the Turf UP!
Armen Suny and Tom Wallace

Jan 17 @ noon

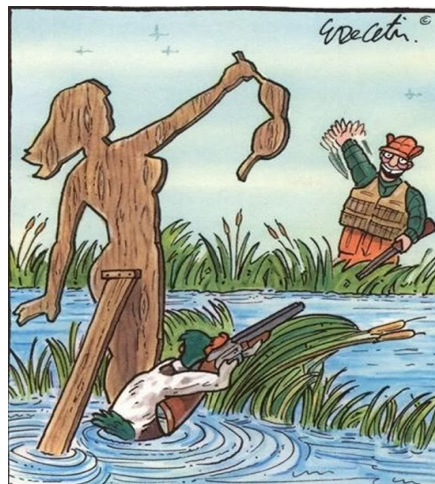
Torturing the Grass aka Turfgrass Cultivation – Physical Practices part of the ASCS Prep series - Beth Guertal, Ph.D.

Jan. 23 @ 2 p.m.

Calling All Recruiters! An Equipment Manager's Guide to Recruiting and Mentoring the Next Generation
Chris Rapp

Just for a Laugh!!

The children were lined up in the cafeteria of a Catholic elementary school for lunch. At the head of the table was a large pile of apples. The nun made a note, and posted on the apple tray, "Take only one. God is watching." Moving further along the lunch line, at the other end of the table was a large pile of chocolate chip cookies. One child whispered to another, "Take all you want. God is watching the apples."



Vegetarian.

Ancient tribal slang
for the village idiot who can't
hunt, fish or ride.

Upcoming Event

HVGCSA
Year End Social Event
Sloop Brewing
Fishkill, NY
December 6, 2018

Save the Dates

MetGCSA
Winter Seminar
Westchester CC
January 16, 2019

HVGCSA
Annual Meeting
NYSTA Southeast Conference
Resorts World Catskills
Monticello, NY
January 29 & 30, 2019

GIS
Nor'easter Social Event
San Diego, CA
February 2-7, 2019