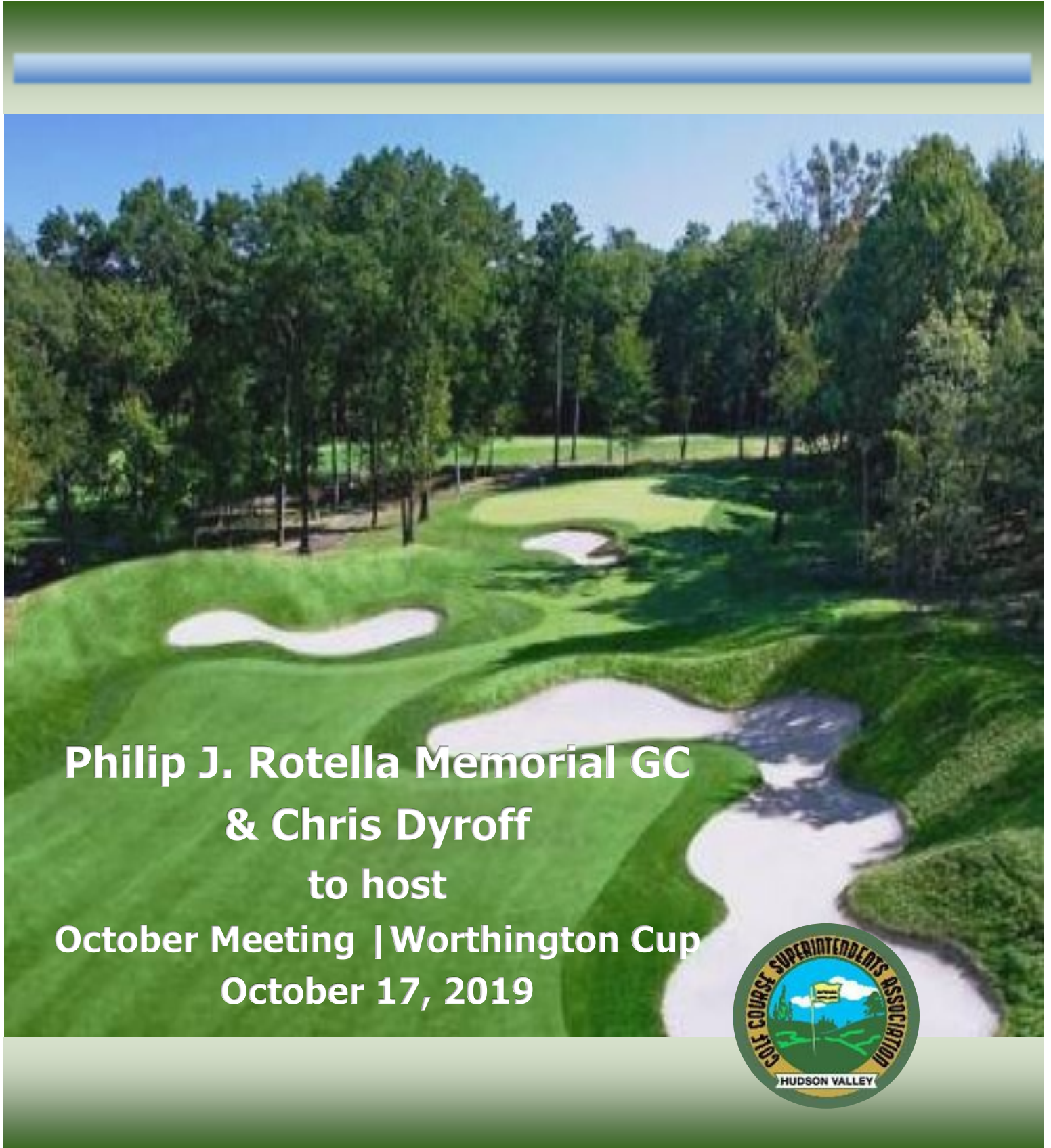


FOREGROUND

VOL. 56 NO. 5 Published by Hudson Valley Golf Course Superintendents Association October 2019



**Philip J. Rotella Memorial GC
& Chris Dyroff
to host
October Meeting | Worthington Cup
October 17, 2019**



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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.



Philip J. Rotella GC

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President's Message



Thank you all for coming out to support the September Meeting at my place. It was a great afternoon and I enjoyed seeing everyone. Now let's do it again for our October Meeting at Philip Rotella. Chris is looking forward to hosting the meeting and the Worthington Cup. Dave Lippman our defending champ would like to have some competition.

Don't forget our elections are fast approaching and we are looking to fill a Director's spot on the board. We have some new superintendent members that joined recently, this may be an opportunity for you to get involved in a great association. If you are interested please reach out to us.

Hope to see you all at Rotella!

Grover

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Philip J. Rotella Memorial GC & Chris Dyroff to host October Meeting / Worthington Cup

The HVGCSA will renew a beloved fall tradition as they ascend to Phillip J. Rotella GC for the 2019 Worthington Cup. This annual tournament honors Ed Worthington, a pioneer in the golf turf sales and service industry throughout the Hudson Valley and beyond. Many years ago, Ed was gracious enough to donate a trophy for an annual tournament for the membership of the HVGCSA. Now each October we honor his generosity with a new trophy that the low gross player of the day takes home for a year. Dave Lippman (yours truly) is three-time defending champion. His wife, Dawn, cheers on all comers to take the trophy away from Dave so she can reclaim her mantle space back for pictures of the kids!! Everyone should bring their A game for Mrs. Lippman's sake!!

The hilly but very playable Hal Purdy designed course was the brainchild of Town of Haverstraw Supervisor Phillip J. Rotella in the early eighties, when the town purchased the property from the State of New York. Hal Purdy was hired to design the course, which was originally known as Minisceongo GC. Steven Kay was brought in for updates and improvements in the early 2000's, when the course was renamed after Supervisor Rotella. Dramatic elevation changes and large, pristine greens will be the flavor of the day. The course also touts five par 5 holes. All are varied and distance and look, but all are not easy birdies for sure!!

Our host Chris Dyroff is in his 5th season at the helm and leans heavy on fellow hockey nut, trusted assistant Scott Estey. A lifelong Hudson Valley resident, Chris grew up in Highland Falls, NY and had stints at Garrison GC, Dellwood CC (now Paramount CC) and Southern Dutchess CC before coming back again to Garrison with longtime friend Jeff Newell. After working side by side with Jeff for several years, Chris was hired to take over for the "legend" Cal Fowx, longtime HVGCSA member who is living the retirement dream in FLA. Lately Chris and his crew have been renovating some teeing grounds and a green side bunker project has just been started this fall.

Off the course, Chris and his wife of 18 years Danielle stay busy with their 14-year-old daughter Sofia, who is a softball and volleyball player. Chris is an avid outdoorsman with fishing and hunting on his fall agenda. Chris has also been active at the Board level of the HVGCSA, just finishing a stint as a Director. Come on out and support Chris and his crew and enjoy a great day and an awesome venue to welcome fall!

By: Dave Lippman



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BOARD OF DIRECTORS CORNER

Our First Field Trip

In March of 2018 the Millbrook Golf and Tennis Club was designated an Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary by Audubon International. Since then the membership has become accustomed to many positive adjustments. To keep our certification current and updated, we need to perform community outreach and provide educational opportunities.

One of the initial steps in this whole process was to form a group here at the club to “help out” in all areas of our continuing certification. Our “Audubon Committee (AC)” is made up of about 10 – 12 people from the local area, mostly from our club. The head of the AC whose name is Lea Cornell, took it upon herself with the assistance of Brian Kelly, our assistant superintendent, and myself to organize an educational day during our well attended annual kids camp we have on the property in July.

This was our first attempt at a field trip out to the golf course so we made it brief in order to keep the attention of the 6 – 10 year old boys and girls in attendance. Our teaching group set up three stations in different areas of the golf course property.

We had the kids actually install a perennial plant in our pollinator bed near the 8th tees. This gave the eager kids a hands on experience and something they can look at and cherish for years to come as the bed becomes more robust. Station number two was a stop at one of our 19 bluebird houses scattered among the 70 acres we sit on. All of the students got to view a nest of baby bluebirds before they made their way out into the world. I can’t tell you how many of the children were in awe at the presence of these little creatures. Finally, our beekeeper here at MGT, Brian Kelly, had a station set up at his apiary near the 2nd ladies tees. All decked out in his beekeeper suit, Brian discussed the importance of the hives and gave the kids a chance to see a hive up close (but not too close). Brian became inundated with great questions about the honey bee life cycle, how they pollinate, how much honey they produce, and how often do you get stung.....

All in all this was a great start to our annual field



Continued.....page 10



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HVGCSA TAILGATE PARTY



Army Black Knights vs. UMASS



Saturday, November 9, 2019

Michie Stadium, West Point

Kick-off @ 12:00 Noon

****This is a joint event with the MetGCSA****

All Members, Friends, and Family are Welcome!

Food & Beverages will be compliments of the Association.

Tickets to the Game: Members are responsible for purchasing their own tickets.

To Register: Email sodowd@mgagolf.org or call 914-909-4843

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Our First Field Trip.....cont'd

trip around the golf course. We'd like to incorporate more hands on activities, like cup cutting, water testing, mowing, aerating, and soil testing in the near future. This gives the younger generation a sneak peek into what we do and how we do it. I'm sure the mindset for most is that we cut grass and that's it. This on site "experience" opens the children's minds to a whole different thought process. I must also add that Kevin Doyle has been a great sounding board



for any other ideas we might just intend to use down the road. Kevin will be speaking at the HVGCSA annual meeting this year in Monticello on this very subject. If you haven't heard of the **First Green** educational outreach program the GCSAA has started, go to their webpage and begin the

process to your first field trip.

Dan Wilber

Past President HVGCSA

Upcoming Webinars

Oct. 15 @ 10 a.m.

Annual Bluegrass Seedhead Suppression in Putting Greens

presented by Intelligro

Matt Elmore, Ph.D., and Zane Raudenbush, Ph.D.

Oct. 30 @ 10 a.m.

What About Wetting Agents?

Doug Karcher, Ph.D.

Nov. 6 @ 9 a.m.

Cómo construir un equipo más fuerte utilizando el golf como una estrategia

Jorge Croda, CGCS

Nov. 19 @ 10 a.m.

Water Management BMPs

J. Bryan Unruh, Ph.D.

Read more: <https://www.gcsaa.org/education/my-learning-hub#ixzz5wh5P1JIt>



Upcoming Meetings

October Meeting
Worthington Cup Tournament
Philip Rotella Golf Course
October 17, 2019

Tailgate at West Point
w/MetGCSA
November 9, 2019

Year End Social
Sloop Brewing
December 5, 2019

Member News

New Member

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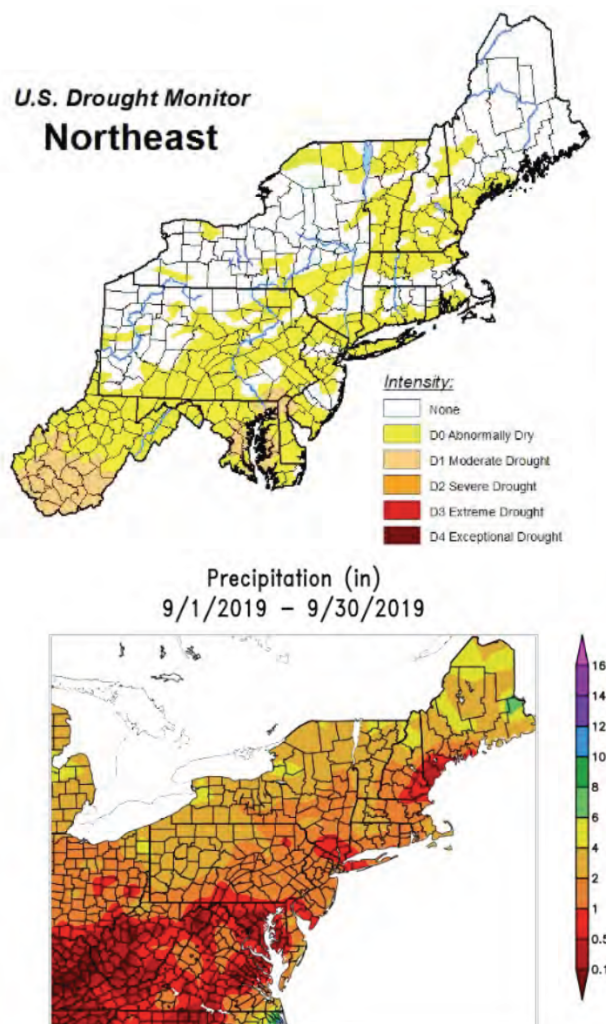
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Gazing in the Grass

Frank S. Rossi, Ph.D.

The start of Autumn in the Northeast has brought a return of summer-like weather with warm days and nights (10 degrees above normal), often with high humidity. Interestingly, it is now about the driest it has been in much of the Northeast in over 14 months. The drought map indicates many areas experiencing early phases of drought. Precipitation amounts are as low as 25% of normal. Topsoil moisture in most Northeast states is lower than the 10 year average at this time, indicating that successful renovation or establishment of turfgrass areas will REQUIRE supplemental water. Ironically, last Autumn the conditions were so wet that it was difficult to accomplish the work needed without causing more damage. This year a good time for soil amendment and drainage is now lacking the typical precipitation for this time of the season, complicating establish of grass from seed or sod. All of the weather data is visible at our Cornell Turfgrass FORECAST website (<http://turf.eas.cornell.edu/app>)

Normally, this time of the season offers excellent growing conditions with long days and cooler evening temperatures that favor cool-season grasses over many of the common weeds found in turfgrass stands. **Good establishment of turf density before Winter is key to preventing Spring weed issues.** Irrigated playing surfaces have a significant advantage at this time of year as the dry weather forces more reliance on effective irrigation practices. Typically new seedlings should not dry at the surface, hence the advent of mulch, straw, etc. to hold soil moisture. This is a critical time for new establishments to get to adequate density prior to the onset of lower temperatures and less favorable growing conditions. This is true for heavily trafficked sports fields that are beginning to visibly thin. Its time to begin an overseeding program with rapid germinating Perennial Ryegrass (PR) or if a Turf Type Tall Fescue stand (TTTF) overseed with TTTF, both at 2-4 lbs per 1000 every few weeks starting now will assist with maintaining density under traffic as growth of mature turf slows during the transition to Winter.





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TURFGRASS SHORT CUTT...CONT'D

Nitrogen fertilization remains an important topic in managing landscapes from farms to lawns. The application of synthetic fertilizer is implicated as a measurable contributor to climate change and as a risk to water quality. As a result, it requires due diligence in the green industry to maximize the efficient use of fertilizer that meets agronomic/ecosystem benefits without compromising water quality. These two facts can no longer be separated when making supplemental fertilizer decisions. There is no justification that can be made for gratuitous application of fertilizer because a “program” blindly called for a fertilizer application when it is clear growth is adequate and traffic levels are low, or a personal favorite “we’ve always done it that way”. The latter is the current focus of this “gazing”.

For decades Land grant Universities across the Northern US (including this Land Grant Scientist) would recommend applications of N fertilizer be made after top growth has ceased, usually that is when the daily average minimum temperature is 50F for 3-5 days. Typically this would be from early as Halloween in ADK to December on Long Island. This almost always assured good Spring Green-up and sometimes significant clipping production early often requiring increased mowing frequency. This recommendation is no longer justifiable.

Professor Karl Guillard with graduate student Salvatore Magnifico of UConn published a study conducted from 2000-2003 titled *Fall Fertilization Timing Effects on Nitrate Leaching and Turfgrass Color and Growth*. In this paper they applied 2 lbs of N per 1000 sq feet over 24 months with the 4 late season treatments providing a third pound of actual N at dates spaced from September to December (temperatures avg. 60F in Sept., 52F in Oct. and 36F in Nov. and 27F in Dec.). The N source was 80% water soluble-N and 20% Water Insoluble N. The leachate that moved past the turfgrass rootzone was collected and reported in the graph above. *In short, the later the N was applied in season the more leached past the root zone posing a risk to ground water quality.* In fact, close inspection of the graph suggests that applying N after Sept. 15 increase overall N mass loss by 50%, essentially wasting N that was paid for, applied and lost. They noted no meaningful differences between color and clipping production related to late season timing. Concluding that the agronomic benefit in Spring was still evident from Sept. applications.

Additional research has been conducted that has shown N uptake in shoots and roots from late season applications decreases as growth slows. (see image). This correlation was further reported in research conducted by Professor Doug Soldat and Marty Petrovic that showed N uptake was reduced as EvapoTranspiration (ET) declined later in the season. This is consistent with the concept that N moves in water via Mass Flow therefore as water movement to the roots slow, so does N uptake.

Consequently, an important Best Management Practice (BMP) at this time of year is to lower late-season N rates, use soluble N sources, and apply while active growth and ET continues. This could be from Mid Sept. in the ADK to late Oct. in SE NY. ▲

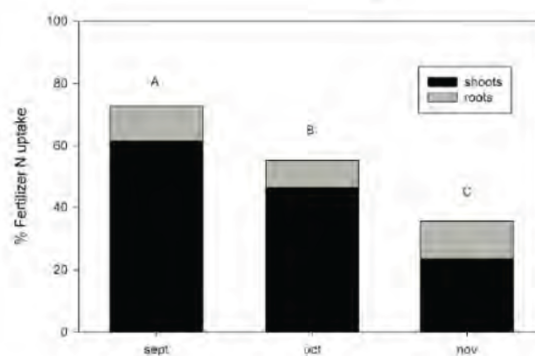
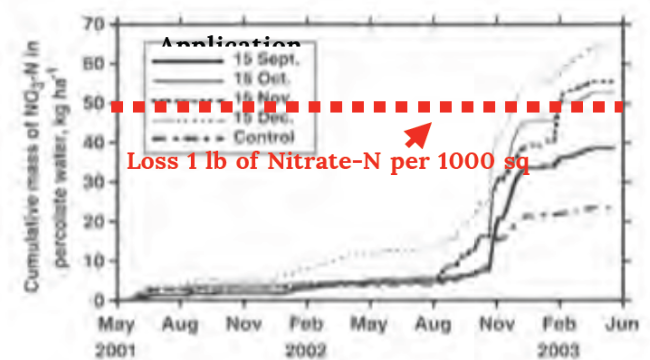


Figure 1: Nitrogen fertilizer uptake efficiency declines later into the fall. Fertilizer that isn't taken up by the plant sits in the soil until the following spring or is leached out during winter. Avoid late season apps that are inefficient. September fertilization is best to maximize recovery and prepare for winter. Courtesy of Doug Soldat



HVGCSA October Meeting & Worthington Cup

Phillip J. Rotella Memorial Golf Course

100 Thiells Mt Ivy Rd, Thiells, NY 10984

Thursday, October 17, 2019

Host: Chris Dyroff

10:30 Registration

11:00 Lunch

12:00 Golf Shotgun: Format - Stroke

****Handicaps required when registering****

5:00 Reception: Buffet Dinner & Prizes

Fee: \$95 - Lunch, Golf & Dinner
\$40 - Dinner Only

Dress Code: Proper Golf Attire

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