

FOREGROUND

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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.



Hickory Hill Golf Course

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President's Message



Cheers to wrapping up another golf season! October begins a welcome conclusion to the 2024 season with shorter days, cooler nights and maybe some rain??? I hope everyone has been able to take a deep breath as we shift gears to the home stretch of the year.

October also brings our final HVGCSA golf meeting. JJ Kozala will be hosting this month's meeting at Hickory Hill Golf Course on October 16th, a scramble format that should be an enjoyable day for all.

Thank you to Glen Dube and Centennial Golf Club for putting on a great day of golf and food in September. While I was unable to attend, I heard from many of those there that the golf course was in incredible shape and that a good time was had by all.

Please keep an eye out for the upcoming announcements regarding our year end association party, Winter Seminar, and events around the national GCSAA Show and Conference.

See you all at Hickory Hill!

Reese Wasson



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James “J.J.” Kozala Jr. and Hickory Hill GC to host the HVGCSA October Meeting

On Wednesday, October 16th, J.J. Kozala and Hickory Hill GC welcomes the HVGCSA to Warwick, NY to play this majestic golf course. It's a scramble format with an early tee off time, 9am. It promises to be a great day. Is there anything better than playing golf in the fall with the autumn colors at their peak? This is the last association meeting of the 2024 season. Let's get out there and support J.J. and the HVGCSA.

All About J.J.



J.J. was born in Goshen, NY and grew up on a farm. J.J.'s father James and his brother ran the farm and grew sweet corn and onions. James also worked as a carpenter for the Orange County Parks Dept. J.J.'s mom Marie worked in retail. J.J. and his brother and sister had their share of chores to do on the

farm growing up.

“My dad bought me a set of clubs when I was young,” said J.J., “I would hit balls in the yard any chance I had. In high school, I played on the varsity golf team. When I turned 18, I applied for a seasonal position working on the maintenance crew at Stony Ford GC, which is one of the two courses that Orange County Parks operates. Rob Bressler took over as superintendent at Stony Ford in 2007, around the time that I was hired full time at the golf course as a laborer.”

J.J. moved over to Hickory Hills to work on the maintenance crew in April of 2019. “I was still working as a laborer,” said J.J., “after a couple years there we lost our superintendent and the position didn't get filled. Even though I was still being paid as a laborer there was a tremendous void that needed to be filled at the course so I decided to

step up and assume the responsibility of running the crew. It paid off because I was eventually hired as the superintendent. I believe that the core knowledge I had from growing up on a farm, planting and harvesting crops and operating equipment, was a great benefit to me as I grew into the position. I also got a lot of support from Rob Bressler. He's been a great mentor.”

J.J. has a crew of 4 full timers and six seasonal workers along with college kids in the summertime to pitch in. The course averages 25,000-30,000 rounds a year.

On a personal note, J.J. and his better half Christina have been married for two years. “I met Christina at the “Copper Bottom” restaurant in Florida, NY,” said J.J., “she was the bartender there (and still is) and we hit it off.” J.J. and Christina just closed on their first house. It's just over the Pennsylvania line in Shohola, PA, near Milford.

Hickory Hill GC

In 1990, Architect Hal Purdy began to wrestle some challenging property with steep hills, rocks, and a deep ravine into a golf course for the Orange County Parks Dept. The course opened in 1992. The layout features sharp doglegs, severe elevation changes, lay-up par 4's, small undulating greens, blind approaches, narrow fairways, and some grand vistas. The golf course plays 6800 yards from the tips but is well suited for golfers at every skill level.

So, there it is. Hope to see you at Hickory!

Kevin Collins

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LAST MEETING RECAP @ CENTENNIAL



Evan Weymouth presenting the Cup to Joe Meyer

Thank you to Glen Dube and Centennial for hosting our event and to all our members & guests that came out to support our association.

What a GREAT day we had for our Worthington Cup/October Meeting! Beautiful weather, golf course in excellent condition, great scores, delicious food/beverages and a **Hole-in-One**.

Congratulations to Chris Kemble for his Hole-in-One on # 5 meadows! And congratulations to our Worthington Cup winner, Joe Meyer from Villa Roma Golf Club with an impressive score of (70)

Results

Worthington Cup Winner: Joe Meyer, Villa Roma Golf Club (70)

2nd Low Gross: We had a tie - Steve Whipple & Dave Lippman (73)

***Steve won the prize with a match of cards.*

Low Net: Fred from Davey Tree's group (63)

2nd Low Net: Ryan Avery, Grass Roots (69)

Closest to the Pin: Will O'Brien, Villa Roma GC

Longest Drive: Gerard Fedro, Hudson Hills GC

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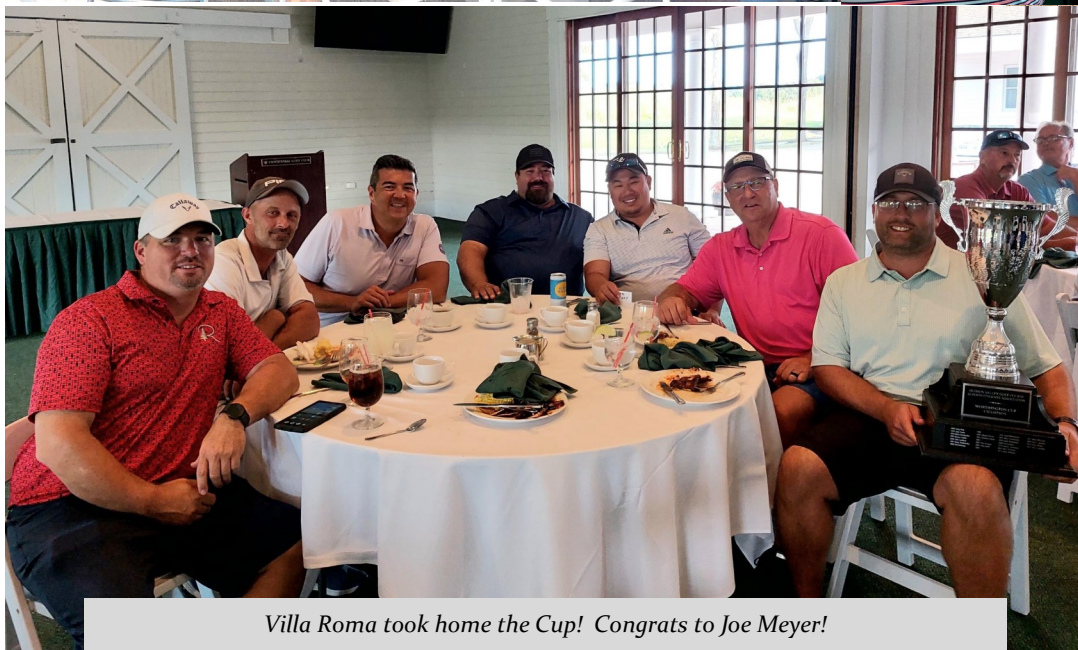
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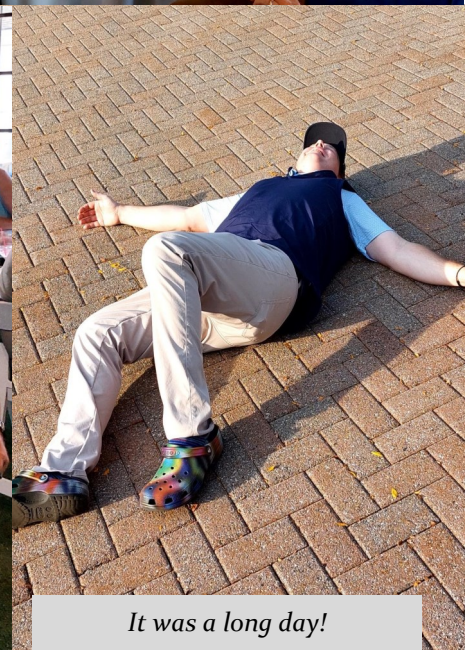
Worthington Cup at Centennial Golf Club



Hole-in-One Winner! Congrats to Chris Kemble!



Villa Roma took home the Cup! Congrats to Joe Meyer!



It was a long day!



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Hudson Valley News of Interest:

By: Kevin Collins



*I cut off the end of my finger making my infamous \$100 Chili last Saturday. I was distracted by a domestic disturbance next door as I was cutting the ribeye steaks into cubes. My fingertip flew into the chili pot and I couldn't find it amongst the ribeye, onions, and peppers. I slowly cooked my creation (including my body part) for six hours. I served the chili that evening to guests and got rave reviews. I don't know who ate the fingertip.



*Powelton Club Super Mike Aube has a new part time gig working for the Newburgh DPW. Mike polices a half mile-long stretch of Route 9W right outside the club's boundaries. It's changed from a garbage strewn hellscape to some of the prettiest lawn in the city.



*Here's another photo of Mike trying to save one of the club's pet goats that fell into a sinkhole near the first fairway. Sadly, the goat didn't survive. Her name was Sally and the crew adored her. A memorial service was held the next day followed by lunch, a delicious curried goat with rice and seasonal vegetables.



*Storm King Super Ben Babbage recently hired his first employee. His name was "Mr. Roboto" and he would mow 50 acres of turf a day. Sadly, "Mr. Roboto" didn't last long as he was lured into the woods by a female coyote in heat and was never seen again.



*Here's a great photo of Past HVGCSA President Tim Walker hanging out with "A Bronx Tale's" Chazz Palminteri. The man on Tim's left is "Jimmy Whispers". This picture was taken two weeks ago and Tim hasn't been seen since.



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EXERCISE YOUR CIVIC DUTY

Kevin Doyle, Northeast GCSAA Representative

I tend to write about a myriad of topics in this newsletter. One particular item that seems to have a regular spot here are the efforts of the GCSAA government affairs (GA) team. GCSAA's mission of being the global leaders in golf course management couldn't be supported better than on the regulatory-government affairs stage. When it comes to the United States, YOUR association collaborates with other aspects of the golf industry, but is the undisputed leader in this space! So, let's look at the value you receive from their efforts and how you can help, even if it's just a little bit!

Exercise your civic duty and let lawmakers know the golf industry is voting and making its voice heard in Washington, D.C. After you visit the polls, take a selfie with your "I Voted" sticker and post it to social media account along with the hashtag #GolfVotes and tag @GCSAA.

No matter which state you reside in, or the border your facility falls in, GCSAA is working hard to protect you and assist in your success. In 2024 alone, state-level action alerts have been utilized to give you, the end user, a simple and effective way to connect with your state legislators on items important to your profession and facility. New York and New Jersey had the opportunity to utilize this great opportunity. New Hampshire used the department to influence new nutrient regulations. If/when you ever receive an action alert, **please** help by utilizing the platform!

Municipal facilities tend to be under a special kind of microscope. Two such facilities in Massachusetts have benefited from the expertise of the GCSAA GA team and environmental programs folks recently! Cities and towns can easily restrict their own properties, potentially forcing municipal golf facilities to comply with much a more restrictive framework. One town vote was overwhelmingly denied and another superintendent-led initiative was embraced after collaboration with GCSAA.

Want to know what the GA team is doing on your behalf? The Quarterly Briefing will alert you on those items that you are benefitting from. This one-hour webinar is a great way to stay informed about the regulatory world golf resides within.

If you are a Grassroots Ambassador, thank you – you receive notifications about these one-hour online webinars. If you're not an ambassador, why not? We are looking for GCSAA Grassroots Ambassadors to help advocate for the golf industry! The goal is to match members of GCSAA with each member of Congress and to develop relationships between them. The program has established a network of committed volunteers to serve as the "go-to" people for lawmakers and their staff on golf course management issues. There are many ways to connect with Congress, but remember, the most important thing you can do as a Grassroots Ambassador is share your story. Those who are: thank you for looking out for your peers.

National efforts are aiming to maximize the opportunity for H-2B workers for those in need of additional staff. Another advocacy focus is enhancing the Farm Bill with much needed turfgrass research funds from the national level, and including state preemption for every state, not just the 43 currently under the rule.

Golf matters, locally, at the state level and at the national level. Your GCSAA government affairs team works tirelessly to ensure that the golf industry, *your* voice, is heard.



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New York Golf Course Foundation

Spearheads NY Economic and Environmental Impact Study



Hopefully, after a challenging season, many of you will start getting back to working on your facility BMPs, but for now, a more pressing issue is in the works. Many of you have probably yet to hear of the New York Golf Course Foundation's (NYGCF) initiative to spearhead an ambitious New York Economic and Environmental Impact Study. Rest assured, you will hear much about it in the coming months.

The idea of such a study was floated over a year ago when the Metropolitan Golf Association gathered the Met sections of the PGA, Club Managers, and Superintendents to discuss the issue since the last economic study was conducted in 2008. For those superintendents who attend the New York State Turfgrass Association (NYSTA) Lobby Day in Albany or National Golf Day in Washington, DC, you'll know that our golf economic numbers always seem to be lacking. Unfortunately, while the meeting was positive, the initiative gained no momentum.

At the GCSAA Conference in Phoenix this winter, a meeting was assembled by Bob Nielsen, CGCS, President of the NYGCF and Golf Course Superintendent of Bedford Golf and Tennis of the Board of the NYGCF, along with Dr. Frank Rossi, and Mitch Savage, CGCS, who was instrumental in the development of the Colorado Economic and Environmental Impact Study. Mitch had also just received the Excellence in Government Affairs Award, for which the Colorado report was instrumental in many of his meetings and testimony with legislators. That meeting determined that such a report was necessary for New York, that the NYGCF needed to be the driving force, and that a New York Golf coalition or alliance should be developed.

The next step in the process was to determine a vendor to conduct the surveys, compile the data, write the report with input from New York associations, and determine the cost. Two vendors were identified, interviewed, and presented proposals. Radius Sports Group,

which conducted the Colorado report, was finally selected. Additionally, to add further expertise and credibility to the environmental portion of the report, Cornell University was retained to review survey questions and methodology and act as an editor of the overall report for consistency of language and tone.

Now that we had a reasonably accurate project cost came the challenging task of getting buy-in and financial support from all the other golf associations and organizations throughout New York. The project's total cost looks to be about \$180,000, and we have solicited \$200,000 for contingency purposes. We requested all organizations for a proportional financial commitment based on the size and resources of their organization. Thus far, every New York Golf Organization has committed some amount except for one. Some are splitting their contributions between fiscal years 2024 and 2025. Additionally, the NYGCF submitted a Request for Funding from the Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship Fund by means of the New York State Turfgrass Association and were awarded \$42,035 toward the study, primarily for Cornell's technical advisory services.

Here is a list of the participating organizations that will make up the New York Golf Alliance:

New York State Golf Association
Metropolitan Golf Association
Metropolitan Club Managers Association
National Golf Course Owners Association
New York State Turfgrass Association
PGA of America – Central New York
PGA of America – Metropolitan Section
PGA of America – Northeastern New York Section
PGA of America – Western New York Section
Adirondack Golf Course Superintendents Association
Golf Course Superintendents Association of NY
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TO ERR IS HUMAN; LESSON LEARNED



The season is winding down at good old Winding Hills Golf Club. The first week in September is already completed. We are now entering my favorite time of the year, Fall. As it approaches with cool night temps and cooler days it brings back a healthy appearance to the turf. Almost, everything is completed for the year with our cultivation. Aeration on the tees and fairways was done about a week ago.

All was looking good up to this point! Next on the agenda was to fertilize both the tees and the fairways. At the start of the day, my right-hand guy (Max) was to begin fertilizing on our 13th fairway while I took care of some other business that needed my immediate attention. I quickly set up the fertilizer for him with the rate that was needed to go down. Unfortunately, in my rush to get the job started and not paying enough attention I gave him a rate and setting from another fertilizer that ended up doubling the dose. Sometimes the brain doesn't fully function at 5:00am when you need it to.

The application went down and I didn't think too much about it until an hour or so later when I came to the realization that we had used a lot more product than required. It wasn't a good feeling and all I could do was hope for the best that it wouldn't affect it in a negative way. I was wrong!!

Below photos show the outcome of what it looks like to burn turf with too much fertilizer; The day after, 3 weeks post burn, and 5 weeks post burn. I also want to add that two days after the initial burn I had slit seeded the fairway with Coho Bentgrass at a 1.5lb/M rate 2 different directions.

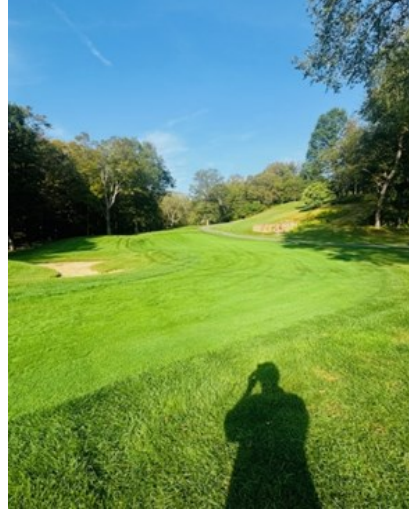
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3 Weeks Post Burn



5 Weeks Post Burn



Steve Bartro, CGS
Winding Hills GC



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New York Golf Course Foundation.....cont'd

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Northeastern Golf Course Superintendents Association
Metropolitan Golf Course Superintendents Association

The economic and environmental surveys have been fully developed as of this writing. They are two separate surveys. The economic survey link will be emailed to general managers and golf professionals, and the environmental surveys will be emailed to the golf course superintendents. We need your help to complete the environmental surveys promptly. The surveys will go live in early November, and participants will have approximately two months to complete; however, the earlier, the better. The anticipated time to complete the survey is 20 minutes. It is a very high-level survey, but some data, such as total water and fertilizer usage, are requested.

This project will be the next game changer for the golf industry in New York. It will permit our community to better tell our story to legislators and the public, which will allow our industry to operate in a more laissez-faire environment. This study will provide us with current and accurate data to present to legislators and offer a public relations opportunity when we release the report and accompanying video to coincide with the 2025 Ryder Cup at Bethpage State Park.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone of you for what you do every day. The job of a golf course superintendent is both challenging and rewarding. It is no longer just about providing a respite for people and quality conditions but also about doing so in an environmentally responsible manner, and I hope that makes the job all that more rewarding to you.

Mike McCall
Executive Director
New York Golf Course Foundation



Meeting Schedule

October 16th

October Meeting
Hickory Hill Golf Course
Warwick, NY

October 21st

Met Team
Championship
Whitemarsh Valley
Lafayette Hills, PA

November 30th

Tailgate Party
w/MetGCSA
Buffalo Pavilion
West Point, NY

December 5th

Year End Party
Patriots Lounge
Stony Point, NY

January 22nd

Winter Educational Seminar
Resorts World Casino
Monticello, NY

HVGCSA October Meeting



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Hickory Hill Golf Course

25 County Park Ln, Warwick, NY

Wednesday, October 16, 2024

Host: Jayjay Kozala, Jr.

8:00 Registration (*Continental Breakfast*)

9:00 Golf: Shotgun - **Format:** Scramble
****Handicaps required when registering****

1:30 Lunch & Prizes

Fee: \$85 - (*Breakfast, Lunch & Golf*)
\$40 - (*Lunch only*)

Dress Code: Proper Golf Attire

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