

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.



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President's Message



The summer heat has certainly arrived early this year, with temperatures already surpassing 85 degrees more often than we typically see at this point. It looks like we may be in for a hot season ahead!

We had a fantastic event at Otterkill back in May, and thanks to our host, Frank Betro, everyone enjoyed a tremendous day on a great golf course. We're hoping to see even more members join us for the Hudson Valley Cup on June 22nd at Powelton Club, hosted by Mike Aube. I've heard he has some special surprises planned—including a goat meet-and-greet as you pass the maintenance facility. And for anyone interested in photos with the 2025 Powelton Employees of the Year, donations will be gladly accepted!

Although I wasn't able to attend the May meeting, I had the opportunity to represent our association at NY Golf Day in Albany alongside the Empire State Golf Alliance (ESGA). I can't emphasize enough the positive momentum and meaningful relationships currently being built with lawmakers. The turnout and engagement were outstanding, and the ESGA is making significant strides in ensuring a strong voice for the future of New York's golf industry. The alliance's next event will be a Walk & Talk on July 23rd at Mohawk Golf Club in Schenectady, NY.

Many of you have likely heard reminders—perhaps more than once—about starting or completing your BMP (Best Management Practices) document through GCSAA. I recently joined a call with Michael Lee and Chava McKeel from GCSAA's Government Affairs team to better understand the growing importance of these efforts. Being proactive in environmental stewardship is critical as we work to address challenges before regulations are implemented that could limit our ability to manage turf effectively. One key issue currently under discussion is the EPA's Endangered Species Act and what future compliance may look like for golf courses. We hope to have more updates to share with the membership next month.

Thank you all, and I look forward to seeing many of you soon.

Hudson Valley GCSA President
Evan Weymouth

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The Powelton Club and Mike Aube to Host the Hudson Valley Cup

By: Kevin Collins

On Monday, June 22nd, Superintendent Mike Aube and The Powelton Club will host the Hudson Valley Cup. This is the HVGCSA's premiere event. The primary function of the tournament is to generate funds to satisfy the association's commitment to research initiatives in the golf course and green industries. Past recipients of HVC funds include SUNY Delhi, Cornell University, UMass, the Tri-State Turf Foundation, and NYSTA. And here is a big shout out to Dan Madar, retired Spook Rock superintendent. He started it all many years ago.

Mike looks forward to hosting the HVGCSA. Powelton is a great tract and the food and libations that will follow the golf will make for an epic day.

About Mike:



Mike was born in Poughkeepsie, NY in 1981 but grew up in New Paltz, NY. Mike's dad Ray was a mailman and his mom Jill worked as a secretary for a law firm. Mike is the oldest of the three Aube children.

Mike got into the turfgrass industry in high school. "I was working for a landscape company which invested in and became part owner of the New Paltz Golf Club," Mike recalled,

"so in the summer I would work at the golf course during the day and at a local restaurant at night. At the golf course, I began to unravel the mystery of maintaining and growing grass and at the restaurant I would bus tables, serve, and even worked as a line cook when necessary".

After high school, Mike attended SUNY Albany, a state college, and in 2003 received a Bachelor's Degree in History. "I had planned on becoming a teacher," Mike said.

"In the summer, I always worked at the golf course," said Mike, "I really liked the work. There was a salesman and former superintendent that called on the course. His name was Ernie Steinhofer. I asked Ernie advice on how to do this for a career and he pointed me in the right direction."

So, Mike enrolled in SUNY Delhi's turf program. Since Mike had all those core credits from SUNY Albany, he was able to complete his Bachelor's Degree in Turfgrass Management/Plant Science in two and a half years.

Mike worked for its long-time superintendent, Mike Maffei. "I lived in the employee housing at the golf course. One morning I had overslept and woke up to find Mr. Maffei standing over me," Mike laughed, "he asked me if I was going to go to work that day. He wasn't happy. So, I jumped out of bed and hurried up over to the shop. Another time I remembered it was a holiday and I asked Mike if we got the day off. He glared at me and said, "Do you think the grass knows it's a holiday". Needless to say, I went to work that day. Mike taught me that this occupation was all about discipline and hard work. It was a good lesson to learn."

In 2006, Mike did his second internship at Quaker Ridge GC in Scarsdale, NY working for superintendent Steve Renzetti. "What I discovered working at Quaker was the true amount of effort it took to maintain a top 100 golf club," said Mike, "The hand mowing, the hand raking of bunkers, spray hawking the greens, and the attention to detail. It was an eye opener."

After graduation from Delhi, Mike's first job as an assistant superintendent was working for Sean Cain at Sunningdale CC in Scarsdale, NY, another top club in the NY area. "I worked with Sean from 2007 until 2014. Sean taught me the correct way to manage people. He was very good with the crew. Sean, being pretty much a scratch golfer, also taught me to see the golf course from a player's perspective. He appreciated hard work and was a great mentor."

Mike's first superintendent's job was at Osiris Golf & CC in Walden, NY. Mike worked at Osiris from 2014 till December of 2022. "What I took away from my time at Osiris is how to do a lot with a little and how to manage time and people," Mike remarked, "I worked for a single owner who didn't put a lot of money into the golf course. The club had a 50-year old block irrigation system where you couldn't isolate the heads which made watering efficiently very difficult. At one point, I only had a crew of two to manage an 18-hole property. It wasn't all bad though. The best part of working there was I had a house on the property. I was able to spend a lot of time with my kids and I enjoyed riding around the course with them in a golf cart when the work day was done. I had the experience of building three completely

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The Powelton Club and Mike Aube to Host the HV Cup...cont'd

new golf holes on the course with an assist from a local architect. There were plenty of good times to offset the tough times.”

In December of 2022, The Powelton Club came calling. “I had interviewed with them a couple years prior,” Mike said, “I was a finalist but didn’t get the job. But things didn’t work out for them with my predecessor. This time they really wanted me so I made the move. I have loved my time here. The membership is great. I have great employees. It’s a good feel, like a family. I look forward to ending my career here.”

Speaking of family.... “I met my wife Dana working in those restaurants in New Paltz,” Mike smiled, “We got married in 2004. Our wedding date was 10/10/10.”

Mike and Dana’s union has produced three children, Gabriella-14, Michael-12, and Matthew-10. The Aube clan lives in Walden, NY.

The Powelton Club:

The Powelton Club is one of the five oldest golf courses in NY State. It is also one of the 10 oldest golf courses in the United States. It has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places since 1999.

The origins of The Powelton Club, formally Powelton Farms, dates back to the mid-1800’s. Powelton Farms was the site of the famed Powelton House Hotel which



attracted guests from all over the east coast. After a fire destroyed the hotel in 1870, owner Homer Ramsdell

formed the Powelton Lawn Tennis Club in 1882. The Powelton Lawn Tennis Club became the Powelton Club of Newburgh in 1892. Changes included a new clubhouse and expanded activities including baseball, croquet, bowling, and ballroom dancing. Legend has it that the first golf was played at Powelton that same year on a five-hole course designed by Homer Ramsdell’s mother Maud. Member James Taylor expanded the course to nine holes in 1897.

After World War 1, the club decided to increase the course to a full 18 holes. They contracted with Devereux Emmet, one of the most prolific course designers in the New York metropolitan area, to design a new course in 1921. Two years later, after the club had obtained the additional land he said he needed, Emmet began his work and the new course opened in 1926. When NY State announced in 1927 that it would be taking the western portion of the club property to build a new highway, Emmet hastily redesigned three holes to accommodate the land grab. Other alterations to the course occurred in 1985 to accommodate the expansion of Route I-84.

Even with those changes, Powelton is truly Emmet’s course and many of his original design touches still remain. Powelton is not long by today’s standards, but don’t let the 6,000-yard layout fool you. The many elevation changes make it play much longer. The course places a premium on accuracy. Water comes into play on eleven holes, the terrain can be severe, and the greens are small and difficult.

We will see you on the 22nd!!

Kevin



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Hudson Valley News of Interest

By: Kevin Collins

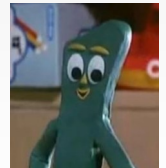


*Plant Food's Dick Neufeld, as per Donald Trump's latest Executive Order, has been deported. It had something to do with Canada's refusal to become the 51st state.



*"As soon as I finish my beer, I'm going to kick your ass." – Stu Sharples, The Filthy Mermaid Tavern, June 2026

*The flexibility that Matt "The Big Sexy" Topazio has gained in his golf swing has been pretty dramatic. Matt says he owes it all to his personal trainer, Gumby.



*This picture captured the exact moment that Robert "Red" Hewitt admitted to Jeff Newell and Chris Dyroff that it was he who burned down the maintenance facility at Putnam National.



*"There is nothing in this world that compares to a \$100 Wagyu Tomahawk Ribeye Steak cooked to an internal temperature of 250 degrees," says "Grill Master" Evan Weymouth. Sally gave her portion to Brady. He buried it in the back yard after breaking a tooth trying to chew it.

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Safety First

By: Kevin Doyle, GCSAA NE Representative



For golf course superintendents, the Spring season brings long days, tight schedules, and constant pressure to deliver exceptional playing conditions despite lean season-opening staffing. But when workloads continue to intensify, one critical priority can't slip: employee safety.

Busy periods often lead to rushed decisions, skipped steps, and fatigue—three of the biggest contributors to workplace accidents. A strong safety culture isn't just about policies; it's about reinforcing habits, even when time is short.

Spring and early summer demand everything at once—mowing, irrigation set-up, chemical applications, tournament prep, and staffing coordination. In the rush, crews may:

- Skip personal protective equipment (PPE)
- Take shortcuts with equipment operation
- Overlook communication

These small lapses can quickly turn into serious incidents. YOU set the tone—when safety is visibly prioritized, your staff are more likely to follow.

Even during the busiest weeks, a few intentional practices can dramatically reduce risk:

- Add a quick note about safety during your morning meetings
- Rotate high-fatigue assignments like mowing or bunker work
- Encourage hydration and breaks, especially as temperatures rise
- Reinforcing PPE use—make it accessible and non-negotiable
- Lead by example—your actions carry more weight than any policy

Consistency matters more than complexity. Simple, repeated actions build a culture where safety becomes second nature. You don't have to tackle safety alone. GCSAA offers a valuable library of training videos designed specifically for golf course operations. These short videos cover topics like equipment safety, chemical handling, and situational awareness—perfect for quick team refreshers during morning meetings or downtime. In addition, GCSAA's Member Discount Partner, Golf Safety, provides specialized safety training programs, risk assessments, and compliance tools tailored to golf course environments. Their resources can help standardize procedures, reduce liability, and ensure your operation meets evolving safety standards—all while saving money through member benefits.

Continued...page 14

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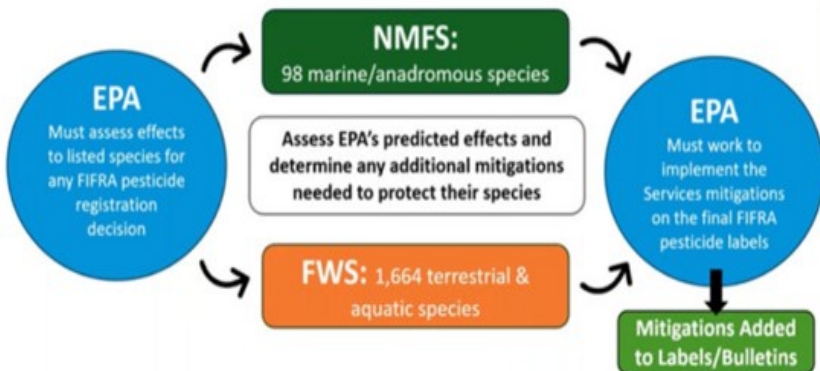
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Safety First....cont'd

Safety isn't just about avoiding accidents—it's about protecting your team, maintaining morale, and ensuring operational continuity during the most demanding times of the year. Crews that feel safe and supported are more productive, more engaged, and more loyal.

Endangered Species Act Workplan and Strategies Update 2026

ESA is not new to pesticides



New to GCSAA's on-demand webinar archive. Follow: Career > My Learning Hub > Categories > Government Affairs to find it.

There are new labels coming for golf course products that will have Endangered Species Act (ESA) requirements. Before you apply pesticides, you will need to go to ESA's Bulletins Live! website to see if your course is in a Pesticide Use Limitation Area (PULA) and see what additional requirements might be. This panel of experts explains what this all means and what steps to take to keep in compliance.

MEMBER NEWS

Welcome New Members

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David Joyce, SynaTek

Julie Lasher, MTE Equipment Solutions

Phil Klaiber, MTE Equipment Solutions

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Steve Bartro

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is now a sales rep at Advanced Turf Solutions



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BOARD OF DIRECTORS CORNER

What an interesting Spring 2026 it has been

It seems like every year brings a new challenge—or one we haven't faced in quite some time. I often say this is a profession where the weather always seems to work against what we are trying to accomplish. Those perfect days are few and far between.

Staying ahead of the weather and keeping an eye on the long-range forecast is a must. Sounds easy, right? Except when the forecast seems to constantly change and is rarely as accurate as we'd like. Then, just when everything finally seems to align, something catastrophic can happen—like getting struck by lightning.

And by lightning, I don't just mean the storm itself. It can mean losing anything from a satellite component, surge protector, fuse, solenoid, wire splice, or phase, to an entire pump station. Storm damage can take many forms, and sometimes a lightning strike can even hit a flagstick and damage a green. If you've never seen photos of that, it's worth looking up. You can probably guess how I became familiar with some of these possibilities!

It's amazing—and sometimes frustrating—what lightning is capable of. Picking up the pieces and putting everything back together after a strike can be a real challenge. But when you finally solve the problem and get things running again, it's a great feeling.

One thing I always try to remember: everything mechanical can be fixed. And if you can't figure something out, don't hesitate to call a neighboring superintendent. Chances are, they've dealt with something similar before. It still amazes me how one bad fuse can be the culprit behind an entire

satellite not functioning—but in the end, that fuse did exactly what it was supposed to do.

Stay safe out there, stay vigilant, and hope for a little cooperation from Mother Nature.



By: JJ Kozala
Hickory Hill Golf Course

Scholarship Applications

DEADLINE: June 30, 2026

Ernest Steinhofer Scholarship:

Eligibility Requirements:

Parent must be a member of the HVGCSA
Student may or may not be planning to enter a field related to golf course management.

Must be enrolled or accepted at an accredited institution of higher learning.
Winners cannot reapply for a period of one year.

Bill Smart Scholarship:

Eligibility Requirements:

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Must be accepted to or attending an accredited Turfgrass Maintenance Program.
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May Meeting at The Country Club at Otterkill....Recap



It was a lovely spring day for golf at Otterkill. It had been a while since the club last hosted one of our meetings, and we were certainly glad to be back. The course was in excellent condition, reflecting the many improvements made in recent years. Frank and his crew are doing a marvelous job—many thanks to them, as well as to the golf and food & beverage staff.

The day was enjoyed by everyone in attendance. Congratulations to our winners: Format was a 2-Man Scramble.

1st Place: Jim Keinz & Andrew Barone

2nd Place: Mike Aube & Matt Topazio

Longest Drive: Brian Bontemps

Closest to the Pin #9: Kevin Kelsey – 12'7"

Closest to the Pin #17: Dominic Greco – 9'

50/50 Winners:

Matt Topazio (*once in a while I get lucky!*)

Kevin Collins

We hope to see everyone at The Powelton Club for the HV Cup on June 22nd

Cheers,

Matt



Hudson Valley Cup



The Powelton Club

29 Balmville Road, Newburgh, NY

Monday, June 22, 2026

Host: Mike Aube, GCS



10:00 AM Registration - Grab & Go Snacks

11:00 AM Golf: Shotgun 4-Person Scramble

**Handicap required

11:30 AM Lunch - Grab & Go Grill Station on Front Patio

4:00 PM Open Bar, Dinner & Awards

Fee: \$195 per person (Golf, Lunch, Dinner & Open Bar)

\$60pp (Dinner & Open Bar)

Dress Code: Proper Golf Attire

Thank you to our HV Cup Sponsors



Upcoming Meetings

HV Cup

The Powelton Club

June 22nd

July Meeting

Nine & Dine

Shawangunk Country Club

July 14th

NYSTA Challenge

The Links @ Union Vale

August 17th

September Meeting

Quaker Hill Golf Club

September 16th

October Meeting

Worthington Cup

Casperkill Golf Club

October 8th