

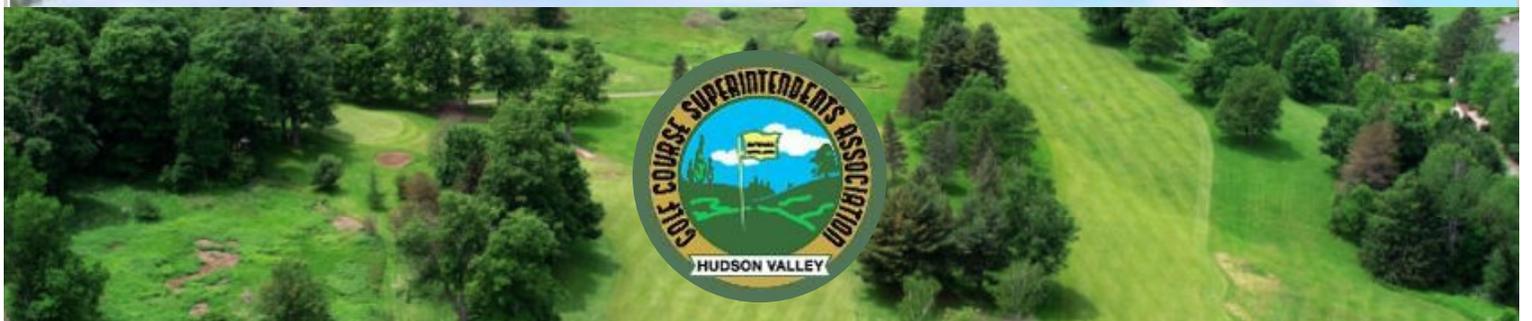
FOREGROUND

VOL. 63 NO. 1 Published by Hudson Valley Golf Course Superintendents Association March 2026



SUNY Delhi
Field & Demo Day
April 19-20

Strengthening the connectivity between New York's golf course management professionals and **SUNY Delhi Golf & Sports Turf Management** program and their students



Board of Directors

President:

Evan Weymouth, *Patriot Hills Golf Course*

Vice President:

Jason Werbalowsky, *Town of Wallkill GC*

Treasurer:

Will O'Brien, *Villa Roma Golf Club*

Secretary:

JJ Kozala, Jr., *Hickory Hill Golf Course*

Past President:

Reese Wasson, *Osiris Golf Club*

Directors:

Ben Babbage, *Storm King Golf Club*

Robert Bressler, *Stony Ford Golf Course*

Tom Wright, *Shawangunk Country Club*

AF Rep:

Matt Topazio, *Metro Turf Specialists*

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.



In This Issue

President's Message.....3

Empire State Golf Alliance Update.....5

Hudson Valley News.....7

Tom Kaufman, SUNY Delhi.....9

Reflections from GCSAA Conference.....12

Congratulations to 25-Year Members.....16

My Experience at the 2026 GCSAA Show.....19

President's Message



Spring is finally here, and hopefully everyone has made it through one of the toughest winters in recent memory. Let's hope 2026 continues the strong economic momentum the golf industry has enjoyed over the past few years.

The Hudson Valley GCSA Board has put together an excellent lineup of events for the season, and we encourage everyone to find the time to participate. Our meetings aren't just a chance to get away and play golf they're an opportunity to get off property, network with colleagues, and build friendships with people who share your interests and challenges.

As "tradeshow season" ends (or as my wife calls it "party season") it's a great opportunity for us all to take a step back to regroup and assess our programs and strategies. One of the best things I heard this winter wasn't even about spray programs or agronomics, instead it was about communicating. Often, we can be our own worst enemies, why does everyone need to know what we are doing? It's not their business. Adam Garr from Course Cares made a strong point in his presentation at the MGA Greens Chair Education Series meeting about Messaging Matters. **Don't let people fill in the blanks!** If we don't provide the right information for our Boards or Proshop we will lose the narrative about what is happening on the golf course. Those are the people that help **positively communicate** what is happening on the golf course for us, to the members or customers.

We're excited to kick off the 2026 season with a brand-new event in April: **SUNY Delhi Field & Demo Day**. This collaborative event brings together the GCSA of NY, the Northeast GCSA, the Hudson Valley Chapter, and SUNY Delhi's Turf Program. More details can be found later in the newsletter.

Our association exists to be a resource for our members. We're here to provide education, networking opportunities, and support for everyone in our community. Don't be a stranger—we're all in this together.

Hope to see everyone soon!

Evan Weymouth
HVGCSA, President

SPONSORS

Advanced Turf Solutions

Gregory Moran: (C) 845-901-1358
(O) 203-831-9748
g Moran@advancedturf.com

A.G. Enterprises

Staff Uniforms
Rick Gordon
201-741-4500 (F) 201-575-4140
merrick160@gmail.com
www.agenterprisesonline.com

Aquatrols Corp. of America

1273 Imperial Way
Paulsboro, NJ 08066
Dave Libby (C) 207-303-9964
dlibby@aquatrols.com

BASF

We Create Chemistry
Jarad Luknicki: (C) 914-806-4823
jarad.luknicki@basf.com

Carriere Materials, LLC

U.S. Silica Topdressing & Bunker Sands
VFB Bunker Sands, Partac TopDressing
Bill Carriere: 914-939-4884
bc1000@verizon.net

Davey Tree Expert Company

Frank Molina: 914-241-8110 (Westchester)
John Wickes: 914-906-3264 (Rockland / Orange)
www.davey.com

Double D Turf, LLC

P O Box 1090
Hightstown, NJ 08520
Dennis DeSantis: 732-580-5516
www.DoubleDTurf.com

ENVU

243 Robertson Way
Lincoln Park, NJ 07035
Pat Quinlan

Executive Turf & Synergy Turf

"Aquritan Nano Technology"
Ken Gentile: 203-496-0891
executiveturfproducts@gmail.com

Finch Turf

John Deere Golf & Sports Turf Equipment
Cody Scott: (C) 959-710-9873
cscott@finchturf.com
www.Finchturf.com | Twitter: @finchturf



**WATCH THIS VIDEO TO LEARN
MORE ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE
OF MANAGING TREE RISK ON
YOUR GOLF COURSE**



**YOUR TREES ARE AN ASSET
FOR YOUR COURSE, BUT THEY
CAN ALSO BE A LIABILITY.**

SOLUTIONS CENTER:

- Tree Inventory, Tree Risk Assessment, Tree Management Plan
- Asset Management/Irrigation & Drainage Mapping/ Green Asset Inventories
- Pest & Disease Identification, Monitoring, Prevention, & Management
- Storm Damage Mitigation, Response, & Clean Up
- Tree & Shrub Pruning, Removals, & Planting
- Cabling, Bracing, & Lightning Protection
- Tree and Shrub Fertilization

CONTACT JOHN OR FRANK TO LEARN MORE:

JOHN W. WICKES, CCPA, CA, CNLP, RCA, TRAQ, NJLTC, CTSP
914.906.3264 | john.wickes@davey.com

FRANK MOLINA | 914.223.9050 | frank.molina@davey.com



Empire State Golf Alliance: Advocacy Update



Greetings Hudson Valley Golf Course Superintendents Association. I wanted to thank you all for your support, and the board's support, of the Empire State Golf Alliance initiative. Evan has asked me to provide a brief update.

My name is **Tom Kaplun**, Golf Course & Grounds Superintendent at **Huntington Country Club**, and I am currently helping lead this effort.

Over the past month, the Empire State Golf Alliance has been working closely with **Gina Rizzi** and the team at **Radi-us Sports Group** as we continue building toward our inaugural **New York State Golf Day** and our first field event at **Mohawk Golf Club**. If you have seen the presentations Gina and her team have developed, or the work completed for the **New York State Turfgrass Association Advocacy Day**, you know the level of professionalism they bring and how effectively they elevate our message with policymakers.

I would also like to thank **Brian Mahoney**, **Kevin Kline**, and the **Metropolitan Golf Association** for the opportunity to speak at their Green Chair and Superintendent event this past Thursday. It was a valuable platform to present the **New York Golf Impact Study** and further introduce the Empire State Golf Alliance to the broader golf community.

First, we will be recognized in **Washington, D.C.** on Tuesday, **May 5** with a **National Golf Course Owners Association Champions Award**. This award is presented during National Golf Day and recognizes leadership and advocacy efforts that positively impact the game. It is a meaningful acknowledgment of the work this group has undertaken.

Second, we are in the final stages of securing a contract

with lobbyist **Patrick Lespinasse**, who will represent the Alliance over the next eight months as we continue to build our marketing and advocacy efforts. Thank you to **Bob Nielsen** for his guidance as we move toward forming a **501(c)(6)** and establishing a formal board.

Third, **New York State Golf Day** will take place on **Tuesday, May 12**, and the **Field Day** will take place at **Mohawk Golf Club on July 23**. This schedule allows for a stronger presence in Albany during session and a more effective opportunity to engage legislators at Mohawk during the summer.

We are also encouraged by the support of Assembly-member **Amanda Septimo**, who serves on the **Environmental Conservation Committee**.

Thank you again for your continued support of this initiative. Based on our experience engaging with legislators over the past several years, and the progress already made in Albany, I am confident in the direction we are heading. Establishing a unified alliance, supported by professional advocacy, will be critical to protecting and advancing the game of golf in New York State.

Have a great start to the spring season.

Best,

Tom Kaplun, GC&GS



ORDER EARLY PAY LATER

**GOLF
EARLY ORDER
PROGRAM**



SEPT 1 - DEC 15, 2025

At SiteOne®, we have all the turf maintenance products you need, including top agronomic brands like LESCO®. And if you stock up on game-changing products between Sept 1st and Dec 15th, you can take advantage of Extended Payment Terms, our Partners Program, and our Rebate Program.



Scan the code or visit SiteOne.com/EOP for a complete list of offers, dates & terms

PLUS GET UP TO 4X POINTS
on eligible **LESCO** products*



Not a Member? Sign up for free and learn more at SiteOne.com/Partners




*Visit SiteOne.com/EOP for exclusions

Hudson Valley News of Interest



*Rotella Super Chris Dyroff loves spending time drinking beer with his pet chicken Clementine. Chris raised Clementine from a chick. Clementine is the largest documented free range chicken in U.S. history. She stands 6'3" tall and weighs 350 pounds. Raised on a diet of Hormel Chili, pasta, beer, chocolate layer cake, and Human Growth Hormone, Clementine grew so large that by her first birthday Chris had to build her a hen house of her own. Clementine is 7 years of age now and her and Chris are inseparable. This has caused a rift with Chris' wife Danielle. We'll cover that story in the next issue of "The Foreground."



*Fisher & Son's Mike Weber has retired from golf course sales to become a full-time caddie on the new PGA Disabled Tour. Mike remarked, "The tour is for disabled golfers. Like if you're missing a body part, you can play on this tour. The guy I'm caddying for, Willis "Raja" Jones, was born without any elbows. I think that's an advantage in playing golf cause he can't bend his arms." Good luck Mike!!



*Toro's Guy Gurney was recently ousted from his neighborhood social club for wearing this hideous sweater. The night he walked into the club dressed in this appalling garment, Guy was thrown to the floor (picture enclosed) and physically restrained until security arrived to remove him from the premises. The club promptly obtained a restraining order from a local judge against the sweater. The sweater cannot come within 50 yards of club property without risking arrest.



*Patriot Hills Super Evan Weymouth had a contest with his daughter Arianna to see who could scream the loudest. Arianna won. Sally wasn't pleased.



*If you're wondering what retired Haworth CC Super Tim Garceau has been doing since moving back to Colorado, he's become a male golf model for Dick's Sporting Goods.



WESTCHESTER TURF SUPPLY

SERVING THE FINE
TURF PROFESSION

**PROUDLY SERVING THE HVGCSA
SINCE 1976**



QUALITY PRODUCTS & SUPERIOR SERVICE

CALL ON US ANYTIME!

Bob Lippman Jr: (C) 914-447-6257 bob@westchesterturf.com

Dave Lippman: (C) 914-447-5192 dave@westchesterturf.com

Tom Kaufman & SUNY Delhi to Host Field & Demo Day

April 19 - 20

Q & A with Tom Kaufman

Superintendent of the College Course at Delhi for the past 36 years

By Dave Gentner, Thousand Island Club

The GCSA of New York recently hosted its first Walk N Talk of the season at the College Golf Course at SUNY Delhi—and what an incredible event it was! With over 70 registrants, the gathering was a true celebration of turf professionals and the educational roots that connect many of us in this industry.

A Diverse and Engaged Audience

Attendees included a wide mix of Superintendents, Assistants, Equipment Managers, Alumni, Students, Faculty, Golf Professionals, and Sales Reps. The event even featured remarks from Dr. Mary Bonderhoff, the President of SUNY Delhi, who spoke proudly about the school's legacy and its role in shaping careers in turfgrass management.



A Nostalgic Journey

For many alumni, including myself, returning to Delhi was a nostalgic experience. It was a walk down memory lane—a reminder of when we left home as teenagers to pursue our passion for turf and golf. SUNY Delhi is where many of us turned a love for the game or the job into a lifelong career. It was inspiring to reconnect with the place where our journey began.

Honoring a Legend: Tom Kaufman

At the heart of the event was Tom Kaufman, Superintendent of the College Course—and a fixture at Delhi for more than 36 years. Tom's legacy runs deep. At 73 years young, he still carries the enthusiasm of someone just starting out. He says the best part of every day is the early morning quiet—when the course is untouched, peaceful, and alive in its rawest form.

Tom's personal roots are just as deep as his professional ones. His family has lived in the Delhi area for more than 200 years. He graduated from SUNY Delhi in 1972 with a degree in Ag Business—back when tuition was just \$150 a semester—before going on to earn a Business Marketing degree from Husson University in Maine.

After 14 years in the agrochemical industry (with what would later become Crop Production Services), Tom returned to Delhi and took over the Superintendent role in 1989. In the 60-year history of the College Course, there have only been two Superintendents: Tom Kaufman and Dave Anderson. Fittingly, Dave later worked alongside Tom after his own tenure as Superintendent.

A Course with History

The College Golf Course at SUNY Delhi was built in 1965, designed by Pete Craig. It came to life thanks to a bold promise from then-college president William Kunsella, who told the village that if they could raise \$10,000, the course would be built. Tom was just 13 when construction began, and he still recalls the powerful image of bulldozers shaping the 4th hole—a moment that clearly left a lasting impression.

SUNY Delhi

Field & Demo Day

April 19-20

Strengthening the connectivity between New York's golf course management professionals and **SUNY Delhi Golf & Sports Turf Management** program and their students

April 19

- 18-Hole Golf Opportunity
 - ◊ 1:00 PM Shot-Gun at Delhi
 - ◊ Golf Fees collected on-site
- Evening Reception in Oneonta
 - ◊ 6:30-9:00 PM
 - ◊ Buffalo Wild Wings

April 20

- SUNY Delhi Field & Demo Day
 - ◊ 8:00 AM-1:30 PM at Delhi
 - ◊ Equipment demonstration stations
 - ◊ Product & service exhibits
 - ◊ Ongoing education and speakers
 - ◊ Student interaction and presentations

Registration

- \$60 Per Person
 - ◊ Students FREE
- Register at gcsaofny.org/events
- Proceeds benefit **SUNY Delhi Turf Club**

Education Confirmed

- Featured: Rod Ferrentino
- Career Development
- NYSTA

Demonstration Confirmed

- Andre & Son
- Grassland / Toro
- MTE
- Finch



Field & Demo Day at Delhi

April 19-20

Featured Updates

The Field & Demo Day is projected to include four interactive sections, each featuring a combination of live demonstrations, exhibits, and informal speakers or presentations.

To Register: GCSA of NY - Field & Demo Day at Delhi

Matt Ceplo - Guest Speaker

Matt Ceplo is a horticulturist at Sleepy Hollow Country Club, where he focuses on environmentally responsible grounds management and advancing Audubon International certification. With more than 35 years of experience as a golf course superintendent, he has led projects that restore wildlife habitat, protect water quality, and promote golf courses as healthy ecosystems. A past president of both the **MET GCSAA** and the **Tri-State Research Foundation**, he has received multiple state and national awards for environmental stewardship.

At the **Field & Demo Day**, Matt will lead 30-minute interactive presentations titled *"From Selfies to Science: Using Smartphones to Monitor Birds, Plants, and Wildlife,"* plus will be available to answer questions during the demos.

SCAN ME
WITH YOUR PHONE
TO LEARN MORE!



Donate a Round Today and Lead the Way:

- **Fund Research & Education:** Contribute to vital turfgrass research and educational programs.
- **Enhance Course Quality:** Ensure courses have access to resources and knowledge to properly care for the golf course contributing to the golf industry's long term sustainability.
- **Strengthen Our Community and its Future:** Fund First Green STEAM education and other community focused programs.



Customers, Our **TOP** Priority.

*Team Metro is proud to be a HVGCSA
Platinum Sponsor!*



Todd Apgar - (203) 948-4941
Todd.Apgar@MetroTurfSpecialists.com

Rich Apgar - (516) 216-0731
Rich.Apgar@MetroTurfSpecialists.com

Scott Apgar - (914) 879-9357
Scott.Apgar@MetroTurfSpecialists.com

Matt Topazio - (845) 821-8986
Matt.Topazio@MetroTurfSpecialists.com

Andy Fries - (203) 648-2410
Andy.Fries@MetroTurfSpecialists.com

Branden Houghtaling - (516) 965-7451
Branden.Houghtaling@
MetroTurfSpecialists.com



(203) 748-GOLF (4653)

www.metroturfspecialists.com

Follow us on Social Media



Reflections from the 2026 GCSAA Conference and Trade Show



Attending the 2026 GCSAA Conference and Trade Show in Orlando was both a rewarding and meaningful experience. As an Assistant Superintendent at Millbrook Golf and Tennis Club, and someone who has spent 12 years in the golf course management industry, the event provided an opportunity not only to learn about new innovations, but also to reflect on the people and purpose behind our work.

One of the most impactful themes throughout this year's conference was the importance of building and supporting a strong team. Creating a positive work environment—one built on trust, communication, and accountability—is essential to long-term success. Just as powerful were the discussions surrounding mental health. Several speakers shared personal stories that are not often heard in our industry. These conversations served as an important reminder that mental well-being is a critical component of maintaining a healthy, engaged, and effective team.

A standout moment of the week was attending the GCSAA Prayer Breakfast, which marked the largest gathering in its history. The experience was inspiring and reinforced values of gratitude, perseverance, and purpose.

Returning to MG&T, I feel energized and grateful for the opportunity to be part of such a dedicated profession. After 12 years in the industry, experiences like this continue to shape how I grow—not only as a turf manager, but also as a leader.

Brian Kelly
Assistant Superintendent
Millbrook Golf and Tennis Club

SAVE-THE-DATES

April Meeting

SUNY Delhi

April 19-20th

May Meeting

Country Club of Otterkill

May 12th

HV Cup

The Powelton Club

June 22nd

July Meeting

Nine & Dine

Shawangunk Country Club

TBD

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

Tanto

IRRIGATION

Your Golf Irrigation Specialist

***Tanto Irrigation has proudly provided
the Golf Course Superintendents of the
Hudson Valley with Irrigation Services
for over 50 years.***

**Let us know how we can serve
Please Contact:**

**Chase Cameron
(203) 233-1482
or**

**George Brooke-Powell
(770) 505-6329**

tantoirrigation.com

EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR & ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING





**The Industry
Leader In Service**

We Pride Ourselves in

- Customer Service
- Technical Support
- Quality Products

We carry a full line of turf maintenance supplies from the leading manufacturers in the industry. Products include: plant protectants, fertilizers, grass seed, tools, golf course accessories, soils, topdressing, mulches, adjuvants and much more.



Follow & Tweet Us



www.facebook.com/GrassRootsTurf



www.twitter.com/GrassRootsTurf

Serving The Turfgrass Professional Since 1978

Grass Roots Turf Products

www.griturf.com

Address: 4 Middlebury Blvd., Suite 7, Randolph, NJ 07869

Phone: 973-252-6634 - Email: sales@griturf.com

Congratulations to Our 25-Year Members!



This year, we are proud to celebrate three members who have reached a milestone—25 active years with the Hudson Valley GCSA. Please join us in congratulating

Bob Nielsen
Dan Wilber
Blake Halderman

Each of these individuals has contributed significantly to the success and strength of our association. Dan Wilber, in particular, has dedicated many years of service to the Board and served as President from 2016–2017.

We thank Bob, Dan, and Blake for their commitment, leadership, and lasting contributions over the years, and we wish them many more years of involvement with the HVGCSA.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Class A

Dean Baye, Silo Ridge Field Club
Andrew Carroll, Quaker Hill Country Club
Frank Betro, Country Club at Otterkill
Kevin Kelsey, Casperkill Golf Club

Class AF

Jeff Moskal, Storr Tractor Company

Class C

Robin Silvernail, Quaker Hill Country Club
Rory Lennox, Silo Ridge Field Club
Greg Bandura, Wallkill Golf Club

SPONSORS

First Turf & Ornamental

3349 Monroe Ave - Suite 290
Rochester, NY 14618
Andy Eick: 774-210-0455

Fisher & Son, Company

Green Industry Professionals Since 1928
Mike Weber: (C) 347-486-0480
mweber@fisherandson.com
[@WebbyTurf](#)

Foliar-Pak

Liquid Nutrients & Landscaping Solutions
Curt Geron
614-270-4164

Grassland Equipment & Irrigation

Ray Warren: 845-260-0518
rwarren@grasslandcorp.com
Chris Pogge: 518-857-0197
cpogge@grasslandcorp.com

Grass Roots Turf Products, Inc.

Serving Turfgrass Professionals Since 1978
Ryan Avery | Keith Kubik | Nick Alley
(O) 973-252-6634
www.GRIiturf.com | sales@GRIiturf.com

Harrell's

"Growing a Better World. Partners for Success"
Scott Tretera: 914-262-8638
stretera@harrells.com
Jim Seaman: 518-365-5409
jseaman@harrells.com

Metro Turf Specialists

"Customers, Our TOP Priority"
Matt / Scott / Rich / Todd
(O) 203-748-4653 (GOLF)
www.metroturfspecialists.com

MTE Equipment Solutions

17 Pickett District Rd
New Milford, CT 06776
Doug Bradley: 914-364-8662
dbradley@mte.us.com

Noble Turf

25 Roland Avenue
Mount Laurel, NJ 08054
Brian Bontemps: 845-239-7959

Ocean Organics

Biostimulants, Fertility & Surfactants
"All Made With Love in Maine"
Kevin Collins: (C) 914-621-1151
kevin@oceanorganics.com
[@kcseweed](#)

Plant Food Company, Inc.

The Liquid Fertilizers Experts
Dick Neufeld: 973-945-6318
Tom Weinert: 914-262-0111
Dave Conrad: 914-263-3244
Tom Pepe: 609-751-1372

TORO

Count on it.

WHAT MATTERS MOST



The new Greensmaster® eTriFlex Series is Toro's flagship electric riding greensmower.

Unparalleled, outstanding cut quality, quiet operations, and no onboard hydraulic fluids.



Storr Tractor Company
908-722-9830

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:

Presently involved in the golf industry.

Must be accepted to or attending an accredited Turfgrass Maintenance Program.
Recommended by Class A or B
in good standing with the HVGCSA.

Click [HERE](#) for applications

or go to our website

HVGCSA.org (member's page)

Any questions contact Susan

(914) 909-4843

sodowd@mgagolf.org

SPONSORS

Saratoga Sod Farm

1670 Route 4
Stillwater, NY 12170
Laurie Griffen: (O) 518-664-5038

Site One Landscape Supply

"Stronger Together"
2 John Walsh Blvd
Peekskill, NY 10566
Kevin Balocca: (C)203-815-9762
kbalocca@siteone.com

Soil Solutions, LLC

Drill & Fill Professionals

"Proudly serving the HVGCSA for over 20 Years"
Anthony & John Decicco
(O) 914-393-0659
soilsolutionsllc369@gmail.com

Storr Tractor Company

3191 Highway 22, Branchburg, NJ 08876
Guy Gurney: 908-413-5640
ggurney@storrtractor.com

Syngenta

Manufacture of Plant Protection Products
Daconil Action, Acelepryn, Ference
Chris Marra: 862-505-4319
christopher.marra@syngenta.com

Synatek

Shaun Kennedy: 862-266-9288
www.synateksolutions.com

Tanto Irrigation

"Golf Course Irrigation Specialists"
Elmsford, NY 10523
Chase Cameron: 203-233-4482
George Brook-Powell: 770-505-6329
info@tantoirrigation.com
@tantoirrigation

W & B Golf Carts

3391 US Route 9
Hudson, NY 12534
Jason Hommel: 518-851-2266

Westchester Tractor, Inc.

60 International Boulevard
Brewster, NY 10509
John Apple: 845-278-7766
www.wtractor.com

Westchester Turf Supply, Inc.

"Serving the HVGCSA Since 1976"
Bob Lippman: 914-447-6257
Dave Lippman: 914-447-5192
info@westchesterturf.com

My Experience at the 2026 GCSAA Conference & Trade Show

In February, I had the opportunity to attend the **2026 GCSAA Conference and Trade Show** in Orlando, Florida. This year's event marked the **100-year anniversary of the GCSAA** and brought together golf course professionals from across the country to learn about the latest advancements in turf management, equipment, and course presentation.

Throughout the week, I attended several educational sessions focused on bunker maintenance and mowing technology. These classes offered valuable insight into improving bunker playability and consistency, as well as innovations in mowing equipment and techniques that promote healthier turf while improving efficiency. One session also discussed before-and-after cut appearance, highlighting practical strategies to elevate course presentation and maintain high visual standards for golfers. All of the speakers were highly knowledgeable, and I truly enjoyed learning from them.

Having recently completed a full bunker renovation—and being passionate about reel grinding—these classes aligned perfectly with my professional interests. Being actively involved in our reel repair, maintenance, grinding, backlapping, and adjustments gave me even more confidence, along with new tips and techniques to share with my crew. I also gained valuable insight into bunker raking techniques and innovative tools, including some creative in-house fabricated solutions.

In addition to the educational sessions, I spent time exploring the trade show floor, where industry vendors showcased the latest equipment, tools, and technologies available to golf course professionals. It was a great opportunity to see emerging products firsthand and speak directly with manufacturers and industry experts—and, of course, collect plenty of free stickers and hats along the way.

Outside of the conference, my wife participated in the event's 5K run, which provided a fun and energetic start to the week. I am incredibly proud of her for taking part and for being so supportive of my profession.

Overall, attending the GCSAA Conference was an extremely valuable experience that provided new knowledge, fresh ideas, and meaningful connections within the golf course management industry. The Centennial Celebration at ICON Park on Tuesday night was without a doubt my favorite moment—not just for the food and drinks, but for the camaraderie, familiar faces, and the unforgettable feeling of being surrounded by thousands who share a passion for the turf industry.

I will definitely be attending future GCSAA Conferences and highly recommend the experience to anyone in our profession.

JJ Kozala, Jr.
Hickory Hill GC



Plant Health from Leaf to Root

Comprehensive plant health means caring for every part of the plant, including leaf color, root growth and efficient uptake of nutrients. Contact your Harrell's rep to create a program that will set you up for success!



Activator + SA

Harrell's SprayMAX® Activator + SA improves the coverage of foliar nutritionals and plant protectants.



PAR

A 2019 Virginia Tech field study suggests that including PAR® SG in a turf management program can be used to improve turfgrass color, quality, performance, and root growth in creeping bentgrass putting greens.



Mycorrhizae Pro

Mycorrhizae Pro enhances root health and aids in the uptake of nutrients. Part of the Harrell's Bio-MAX® line, Mycorrhizae Pro soil additive is a concentrated liquid Mycorrhizae formula of *rhizophagus irregularis*.

Reach out to your Harrell's rep for more information on these and other products & programs!



SCOTT TRETERA
stretera@harrells.com
(914) 262-8638



JIM SEAMAN
jseaman@harrells.com
(518) 365-5409



JOSH KOPERA
jkopera@Harrells.com
(201) 213-8693



www.harrells.com | 800.282.8007
Employee-Owned