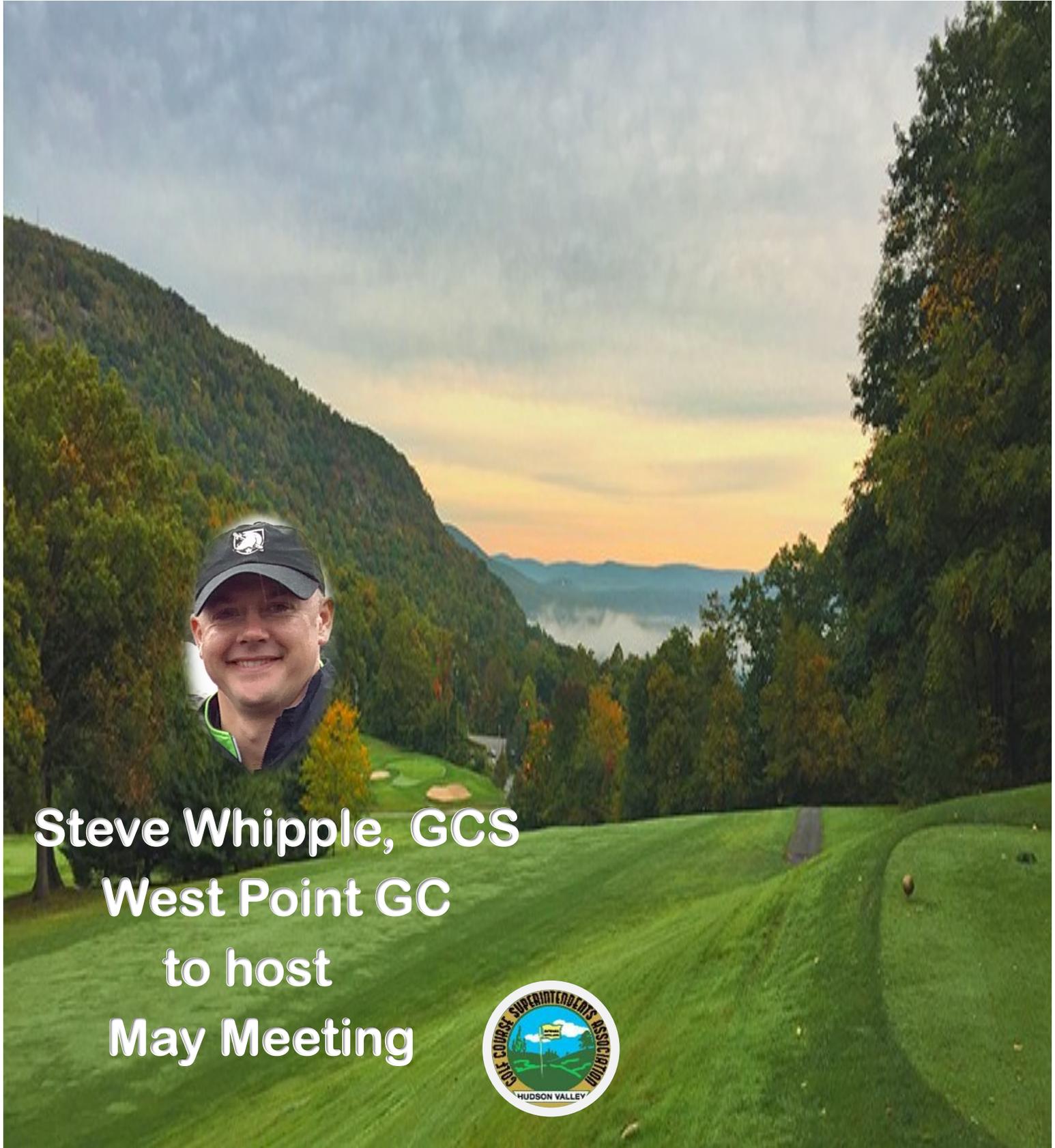


FOREGROUND

VOL. 54 NO. 2 Published by Hudson Valley Golf Course Superintendents Association May 2017



**Steve Whipple, GCS
West Point GC
to host
May Meeting**



Board of Directors

President:

Dan Wilber, *Millbrook Golf & Tennis*

Vice President:

Guy Gurney, *Hollow Brook GC*

Treasurer:

Grover Alexander, *Hudson Hills GC*

Secretary:

Kevin O'Brien, *James Baird GC*

Past President:

Steve Whipple, *West Point GC*

Directors:

Chris Dyroff, *Philip J. Rotella GC*

Chris Kemble, *McCann Memorial GC*

Chris Strehl, *The Links @ Union Vale*

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



West Point Golf Course "Old" Club House

In This Issue

President's Message.....	3
West Point GC - Steve Whipple.....	4
Hudson Valley News.....	7
Board of Directors Corner.....	8
GIS 2018 "Big Ticket"	9
National Golf Day.....	10
April Meeting Recap.....	13
Kevin Doyle, GCSAA.....	15

President's Message

Northern Neighbors

It wasn't too long ago the HVGCSA ventured up the Taconic State Parkway to join our northern neighbors for a joint meeting with the Northeastern GCSA. I must say the day looked very bleak for the ride up-state, even through the "opening ceremony" the weather was questionable. The day turned out to be great and what a thoughtful and touching event Brian Goudey and the NEGCSA put on for our very own Ernie Steinhofner. Before we mounted up into our carts we were all (50 or so attended) invited to the 10th tee to the sounds of a bagpiper strolling up the fairway. She eventually made her way to the tee as most heads bowed or looked to the sky for a sign that Ernie was



there. As it turned out, the light rain ceased and golf went on without a hitch.

Kevin Doyle, our Northeast field representative from GCSAA, also sparked a full room, round table discussion on such topics as National Golf Day, advocacy, labor, and a recap of the Strategic Planning meetings that took place with both the NEGCSA and the HVGCSA this past winter season. It was nice to know both associations are facing similar challenges. I always take note as to any ideas that can enhance our

association and in turn, communicate anything we do that can strengthen their board decisions.

Although we belong to different associations, we are striving to keep all of our members informed and active. If you weren't able to make it to Columbia Golf and Country Club in Claverack, NY, you missed a treat. This is the second or third trip up there for a joint meeting, and every year I find something new to enjoy. The layout of the course is challenging but fair. The conditions that Mr. Tom Niebling and his crew provided were superior for mid April. The club looks to be in a solid financial position as there were recent projects underway (and even some completed).

Personally, I always enjoy the company of the our friends to our north. For the most part, they are all working superintendents with budgets similar to ours. I feel the camaraderie that the Hudson Valley shares, is also a trademark of the NEGCSA, as well. Whenever possible, I try to attend the April joint meeting, the winter symposium, or any other event the NEGCSA has, because there is always an opportunity to meet another friend in the industry. This rolls right into our next meeting on Thursday, May 18th, at West Point. At this meeting we have invited the Poconos GCSA. Steve Whipple is thrilled to be preparing the historic grounds for this shared event sponsored by Seeton Turf and Storr Tractor.

Let's show the gentlemen from the great state of Pennsylvania some Hudson Valley hospitality.

Cheers,

Dan

HVGCSA Mission Statement

The Hudson Valley Golf Course Superintendents Association exists to inform, educate and serve members within the Hudson Valley and surrounding areas.



West Point Golf Course & Superintendent Steve Whipple

By: Kevin Collins

To construct a golf course today on the land that West Point's Golf Course occupies would be an expensive and formidable challenge. It probably wouldn't happen. Robert Trent Jones Sr. was hired to design the course in the early 40's and construction began in 1945. German POWs were used for labor to blast rock, cut down trees, and shape the course. From 1945 to 1948 only 10 holes were completed.

Although the course measures only 6,000 yards from the tips, it plays much harder and longer than the yardage. The hilly terrain, numerous uneven lies, and the many elevation changes will put any golfer to the test.

Our good friend, the late Garrison Superintendent Rich "Downtown" Browne, worked on the maintenance crew as a kid. I remember him telling me, "Walking the greens mowers up to cut those elevated greens took so much out of me that I wanted to pass out."

In the mid-90s, an extensive renovation took place at the course. Irrigation, new holes, new tees, additional water hazards, and a new bridge over Route 9W were just some of the changes brought to the course. Holes 10 through 15 lay on the western side of Route 9W with the remainder of the course on the east side of the highway.

Robert Trent Jones Jr.'s company was brought in to reconstruct the 5th green. There were additional plans to have Jr.'s company redesign greens, bunkering, and surrounds to return the course to the original look and feel that his

father had intended. A new master plan was drawn up. Unfortunately, the funds for the plan never materialized and the work is still on hold. The old clubhouse was also razed and has not been replaced. Money is still on hold to construct a new clubhouse. At the moment, the pro shop is located in the ski lodge. With the lack of funds for capital projects, Steve is concentrating on providing the very best conditions he can muster for the golfing public.

Living a Dream

As a young kid living in upstate New York, Steve knew his life's work was almost eerily predetermined. "There were two things I loved to do growing up," Steve reminisced, "mowing grass and playing golf." With that in mind, he enrolled at SUNY Delhi and received his Associates Degree in Golf Course Operations in June of 1998. Steve transferred to Penn State and graduated with his Bachelor's Degree in Turfgrass Science in 2000.

The key to establishing your career path in this business starts with the internships you complete while at school. "I spent my internships at Locust Hill C.C. in Rochester while at Delhi," Steve remembers, "Rick Slattery is the superintendent who taught me everything I needed to know to be successful in this business. He is truly my mentor."

After graduating from Penn State, Steve's first assistant's position was at Bidderman G.C. in Wilmington,

HVGCSA May Meeting



Save the Dates!!

HV Cup
Centennial Golf Club
6/14/2017

Nine & Dine
Dogwood Knolls GC
7/28/2017

August Meeting
NYSTA Challenge
The Links @ Union Vale
8/14/2017

September Meeting
James Baird GC
9/12/2017

October Meeting
Millbrook Golf & Tennis
10/10/2017

Date: May 18, 2017

Location: **West Point Golf Course**
1230 Route 218, West Point, NY

Host: Steve Whipple, GCS

Registration: 8:15 - 8:45 AM

Breakfast: Breakfast Sandwich
made to order

Golf: 9:00 AM - Shotgun Start

Social: 1:30 PM
BBQ Lunch - Awards - Cash Bar

Fees: \$ 95.00 pp

Dress Code Proper Golf Attire

Meeting Sponsors



STORR TRACTOR

To Register: [Click HERE](#) or call 914-909-4843

(Please name players, GHIN#/handicaps and if any pairing preferences)

Platinum Sponsors:





**Customers,
Our Top Priority**
81 Commerce Dr.
Brookfield, CT 06804
www.metroturfspecialists.com



+



Nature Safe 8-3-5 Fine with Synergy

TOTAL NITROGEN (N)	8.00 %
AMMONICAL	0.20 %
WATER INSOLUBLE	7.20 %
WATER SOLUBLE	0.60 %
PHOSPHATE (P ₂ O ₅)	3.00 %
POTASH (K ₂ O)	5.00 %
SULFUR (S)	4.00 %
CALCIUM (Ca)	3.00 %
MAGNESIUM (Mg)	2.20 %

Spreader Settings

AMOUNT	SCOTTS H	SCOTTS 2000	LESCO	SPYKER	VICON	LELY
1/2 lb. N	NO	PQ	KL	5	35-25'	5-25'

The listed spreader settings are a starting point. Setting can vary based on terrain and the individual applicators speed.

Two 1/2 pound nitrogen applications will give 100 plus days of water management in fine textured soils.

This is an excellent product for use on bunker banks, green surrounds, walkoff areas, primary & secondary rough and lawns.

Source of Nutrients:

Hydrolyzed feather meal, meat meal, bone meal, blood meal, fish meal and langbenite.

This Product contains 7.2% slow release nitrogen from hydrolyzed feather meal, meat meal and fish meal

Active Ingredient:

Synergy Concentrate improves the infiltration and penetration of applied irrigation water and rainfall. It also increases nitrogen efficacy and minimizes leaching.



+



metroturfspecialists.com / 203.748.4653

CUSTOMERS, OUR TOP PRIORITY

50lb Bag

Scott Apgar
914-879-9357
scott.apgar@metroturfspecialists.com

Rich Apgar
516-216-0731
rich.apgar@metroturfspecialists.com

Todd Apgar
203-948-4941
todd.apgar@metroturfspecialists.com

Jake Green
203-984-7501
jake.green@metroturfspecialists.com

Matt Topazio
845-821-8986
matt.topazio@metroturfspecialists.com

Office - Gary: Phone: (203) 748-GOLF (4653) - Fax: (203) 743-0458

Hudson Valley News of Interest

By: Kevin Collins

Westchester CC's Anthony "Tony" Grasso is getting so thin that when he turns sideways you can barely see him. I'm starting to refer to him as "Tiny" Grasso. Tony says he's on the "Lucille" diet. When he pisses her off, she refuses to cook. Looking good, Anthony.

I'd be remiss if I didn't talk about one of my all-time favorite people in the golf business. Rich "Downtown" Browne was, simply, a great person. He was always happy and had a big smile on his face. You could always count on Rich being a true friend. I'll never forget all the great card games we'd have at Chris Dyroff's house and Rich screaming about how Acey-Deucey was such a "stupid" game. Or the time we had to carry Rich out of Chris' wedding because he had too many apple martinis. Or Rich heckling everyone at the DCGCSA meeting at Quaker Hill CC. Rich, you brought so much joy and happiness to everybody you met. I'm sure you're cracking everyone up in heaven. God bless you, Rich.

Chris Dyroff, Jeff Newell and Bill Luthin are finalists to become the next president of the HVGCSA's Hair Club for Men. They all bring a lot to the table and it's been hard to ascertain which one of the three is more follicularly challenged. It should be a close election, maybe won by a "hair."



SPONSORS

A.G. Enterprises

Staff Uniforms
Rick Gordon
201-488-1276 (F) 201-489-5830
merrick160@gmail.com
www.agenterprisesonline.com

Aquatrols Corp. of America

*The World Leader in Soil Surfactants
& Wetting Agents*
1273 Imperial Way, Paulsboro, NJ 08066
800-257-7797 | info@aquatrols.com

BASF

We Create Chemistry
Pete Jacobson: 919-530-9062
peter.jacobson@basf.com

Bayer U.S.

Backed By Bayer
Dave Sylvester
860-841-3173

Carriere Materials, LLC

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

Coombs Sod Farm

84 Route 77, Elmer, NJ 08318
Kevin Coombs | Owen Regan
856-542-4178 | 401-465-8066

Fisher and Son, Company

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

Grass Roots Turf Products, Inc.

Serving Turfgrass Professionals Since 1978
www.GRIturf.com sales@griturf.com
Ryan Batz: 973-252-6634

Harrell's

Growing a Better World Partner for Success
Scott Tretera: 914-262-8638
stretera@harrells.com
www.harrells.com

Intergolf, Inc

*Golf Course Renovation
"Any Style Quality Assured"*
Frank O'Dowd: (C) 914-260-7821
frank@intergolf.com
www.intergolfdesign.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS CORNER

Pollinators

By: *Chris Strehl*

HVGCSA Members, here we are again, the start of another golfing season. I was ready to get started until Mother Nature changed those plans and dumped a bunch of snow on us.



The extra time gave me the opportunity to really look at what I do on the golf course for honeybees, solitary bees, and ground bees as it relates to pollinators, and in particular, honeybees. I try to make sure the pesticide applications make it to the target organism and not the pollinators. I try cutting flowers off of weeds before spraying. Not spraying areas that are bare of any groundcover or using a less than lethal chemical. I wait to do any herbicide applications to dandelions until after they have stopped flowering and gone to seed. With these strategies I can minimize the bee's exposure. There has been a lot of information being disseminated to superintendents on how to deal with the risk we present to pollinators. Basically we need to read the label of the product and use common sense. Don't spray on windy days where drift is going to be a factor or don't spray the flowers at the clubhouse when they are in bloom. There are people that are partially blaming the chemicals we use on the golf course for pollinator decline. We need to show these critics that what we do isn't negatively affecting pollinators and we are actually promoting pollinators thru expanding native and wildflower areas on our courses. With the research still being accumulated as to what is causing pollinator decline, we need to stay ahead of the pack and be proactive in decisions we make that can affect pollinators.

I will leave you with some interesting honeybee facts.

- 1) Honeybees are the only insect that produces food eaten by man.
- 2) Foraging bees fly about 55,000 miles to produce a pound of honey, visiting around 2 million flowers.
- 3) Each honeybee makes about 1/12 of a teaspoon of honey in its lifetime.
- 4) Only female honeybees can sting, the male (drones) bee is not able to sting.
- 5) Drones only live to mate with a queen and are kicked out to the hive by the female worker bees when food sources become scarce.
- 6) It is estimated that it would take 1,100 bee stings to be fatal.
- 7) A colony has between 20,000-80,000 bees and one queen.
- 8) Worker honeybees are all female, live for about 6 weeks and do all the work in the hive. (I'm sure KC can have some fun with this fact in the next HV news of interest.)
- 9) The queen can lay up to 2500 eggs in a day.
- 10) The wings of a honeybee move about 200 beats per second and can fly up to 15 mph.
- 11) Approximately 1/3 of all food consumed by Americans is directly or indirectly derived from honeybee pollination.
- 12) Honey never spoils.
- 13) There are over 30,000 species of bees in the world of which only 7 are recognized as honeybees and 44 subspecies.



Hope you enjoyed all the bee facts!

I'll see you at the next meeting at West Point.

Chris





“THE BIG TICKET”

GIS Giveaway

Courtesy of HVGCSA



golf industry show

Criteria:

1. Must be active within the Association.
2. Must be a Class A, B, or CGCS member of the Hudson Valley and be in good standing.
3. Have not attended the GIS within the past 5 years.
4. Must submit a brief essay as to how the trip to GIS will benefit you and your facility.

Due by September 30, 2017

5. Must submit a written article outlining your experience at GIS for the Foreground Newsletter.

*Winner will be chosen by the Board of Directors.

*The chosen candidate will not be eligible for another 5 years.

Package Includes:

- ◇ Full Conference Registration
- ◇ Airfare
- ◇ 4 Nights Hotel
- ◇ 2 Educational Seminars (1 full day + 1 half day or the equivalent expense)
- ◇ \$200 spending allowance

Hudson Valley Golf Course Superintendents Association: 49 Knollwood Road, Elmsford, NY 10591

Phone: 914-909-4843 / Fax: 914-347-3437

REMINDER!

If you don't have a **USGA GHIN number**. You can now obtain one through HVGCSA. There is no fee. Please contact our office 914-909-4843 or email sodowd@mgagolf.org



Do you have an idea, article or photo you would like to include?



Let us know!

National Golf Day



WE ARE GOLF, a coalition of golf's leading organizations, hosted its 10th annual National Golf Day on Wednesday, April 26, 2017 on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. "Celebrating our 10th anniversary was an historic moment and significant milestone for the golf industry," says Steve Mona, CEO of World Golf Foundation and administrator of WE ARE GOLF. "The game's economic, charitable, environmental and fitness benefits echoed throughout Capitol Hill as we shared golf's contributions, both locally and nationally, with our country's decision-makers." New for 2017, more than 100 golf industry leaders arrived a few days early and participated in a community service initiative on the National Mall the morning of April 25. It focused on beautification, preservation and helping the National Park Service with turf deferred maintenance.

See more at: <http://wearegolf.org/capitol-hill/national-golf-day/#sthash.Oeemrx4.dpuf>

<http://wearegolf.org/blog/2017/04/we-are-golf-celebrates-national-golf-days-10th-anniversary-on-capitol-hill/>

2017 Scholarships

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, SM or Associate Member in good standing with the HVGCSA.

Applications: www.hvgcsa.org or contact Susan (914) 909-4843

SPONSORS

Metro Turf Specialists

Proudly Celebrating 50 years in Business

"Customers, Our Top Priority"

Scott / Rich / Todd / Jake / Matt

(O) 203-748- GOLF (4653)

www.metroturfspecialists.com

Plant Food Company, Inc.

The Liquid Fertilizers Experts

Dick Neufeld: 973-945-6318

Tom Weinert: 914-262-0111

Dave Conrad: 914-263-3244

Saratoga Sod Farm

1670 Route 4

Stillwater, NY 12170

Laurie Griffen

(O) 518-664-5038 (C) 518-265-0160

Seeton Turf Warehouse, LLC

25 Roland Avenue

Mount Laurel, NJ 08054

Brian Bontemps: 845-239-7959

Brian Gjelsvik: 973-670-7139

Site One Landscape Supply

Stronger Together

Chad Mathieu: (C) 914-539-5675

cmathieu@siteone.com

Soil Solutions, LLC

Aerification Professionals

7 Whittemore Pl, Rye Brook, NY 10573

Anthony & John DeCicco

(O) 914-393-0659 (F) 914-939-5010

Steven Willand, Inc.

Quality Turf Equipment

4 Production Dr, Brookfield, CT 06804

George Corgan: (C) 914-213-3622

gcorgan@stevenwillandinc.com

www.switurf.com

Storr Tractor Company

3191 Highway 22

Branchburg, NJ 08876

Steve Bradley: 908-413-5640

Rick Krok: 908-413-3403

Synergy Turf Supply

"Agronomic Professionals"

Bobby Steinman: (C) 860-488-2822

bobby7777@aol.com

Ken Gentile: (C) 203-496-0891



***PROUDLY SERVING THE HVGCSA
SINCE 1976***



QUALITY PRODUCTS! SUPERIOR SERVICE!

SEE US ON THE WEB:

WWW.WESTCHESTERTURF.COM

CALL ON US ANYTIME!

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

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

West Point GC.....cont'd

Delaware, working for Carmine Magro. "We completed a lot of projects in the two years I was there," Steve said, "I learned a lot about irrigation installation and greens construction which definitely prepared me for being a superintendent."

During the winter of 2002, Steve moved back to Rochester and Locust Hill. He read about the job opening at West Point and the rest is history. "Working at West Point is a truly unique experience," Steve stated, "you have to learn about how the military does things and then adapt. Areas



like procurement, hiring, firing, military lingo, and the chain of command are just a few of the things I had to get used to. This job involves lots of planning and being ahead of the curve."

On a personal note, Steve married his college sweetheart

Dena in 2005 and they bought their first house in Rock Tavern, NY in 2006. Steve and Dena have two children, daughter Macy 8, and son Cooper 3.

Dena attended Penn State University and received a degree in Photography. She is currently the Director for the Center for Teaching and Learning at SUNY Orange in Middletown, NY. Dena also teaches as an adjunct professor at the college.

Steve has worked diligently to improve the agronomic conditions at West Point. "We're here for the cadets," he remarked, "I want to give them the best conditioned course possible," The event will be a joint meeting with the Pocono GCSA and Steve expects a good turnout. Don't pass up the opportunity to attend the meeting on May 18th.

Kevin Collins

Welcome New Member

Class A

Casey Klosser, The Tuxedo Golf Club

SPONSORS

Syngenta

Manufacture of Plant Protection Products
Daconil Action, Acelepryn, Ference
Lee A. Kozsey: 215-796-0409
Brian Goudey: 518-764-2412
www.greencastonline.com

Tanto Irrigation

5. N. Payne Street, Elmsford, NY 10523
Steve Kubicki: 203-988-6620
Jeff Gennarelli: 914-419-1024

Valley Green, Inc

205 Wilson Ave, Norwalk, CT 06854
Gregory Moran: (C) 845-901-1358
(O) 203-831-9748

W & B Golf Carts, Inc.

3391 Route 9, Hudson, NY 12534
Jason Hommel | Mike Behan
518-851-2266

Westchester Tractor, Inc.

60 International Boulevard
Brewster, NY 10509
John Apple - Charlie Siemers
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

Wickes Arborists

11 McNamara Road
Spring Valley, NY 10977
John Wickes: (C) 914-906-3264
(O) 845-354-3400 john@irawickes.com

Wilfred MacDonald Inc.

Turf Equipment Specialists
Bill Luthin (C) 201-214-5901
(O) 888-831-0891 (F) 201-931-1730
billy@wilfredmacdonald.com

Winfield Solutions, LLC

"Service, Solutions, Insight"
Mike DiLorenzo, CGCS: 518-428-8625
mwdilorenzo@landolakes.com
www.winfieldpro.com

Last Meeting Recap



Our first meeting of the season was a joint meeting with our Northeast Association Brothers, hosted by Tom Niebling at Columbia County CC. I always love the Columbia County golf course! Very scenic, great layout, challenging but not a killer and always in great shape. Rain was in the forecast but held off for most of the round making for a most enjoyable day. We all shared a somber moment of remembrance for our late pal Ernie Steinhofer who was in our thoughts, and it was very weird not having his presence at a monthly meeting. In honor of Ernie, a Bag Piper marched up to the first tee while our group stood in respectful silence. Miss you, Ernie!

The meeting was like the Hudson Valley meetings of the past, cost was under \$100.00 and we had a speaker (Kevin Doyle) who led a round table discussion on the state of golf maintenance labor; how to find, communicate, and retain young workers. Golf followed. Thanks to Tom and his staff for all their efforts in providing exceptional conditions for all 55 of us.

Golf Awards

Long Drive: Todd Sefield

Closest to Pin: Dick Neufeld, Todd Sefield, Jeff Stuphen

2 Man Scramble Results:

1st Place: Dave Lippman and Jeff Stuphen

2nd Place: Fairways @ Halfmoon Boys

3rd Place: Dick Neufeld and Brent Thompson

Many thanks to the main Meeting Sponsor, Brian Bontemps from Seeton Turf, Brian Goudey for being the meeting awards emcee, the Pro Shop and the Food and Beverage Staff for taking real good care of us. Nice to see Brent Thompson, new member and very busy super at Silo Ridge Field Club (a recently opened golf course) who made time to make the meeting.

Condolences to the family of long time Garrison Super Richie Browne who recently passed away at his home in Sausalito, CA. Larger than life and will be missed.

Next meeting is at West Point GC. Hope to see you there!

Bill Luthin





**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



GCSAA

Kevin Doyle

If there is one consistent part of our industry, it is transition. Seasons change both environmentally and within the business of being a superintendent. We are transitioning out of a busy education season into facilities opening, handling staff and weather challenges, and chapter meeting and events. Just because golf begins does not mean education is put on hold.

In a conversation with one superintendent, he told me that he attends almost every meeting and plays golf when he attends. "I always try to take three things back to my facility from every meeting." He explained that through education offerings, conversations with peers, and paying attention to the maintenance practices on a colleague's course, the fact is, he never struggles to find three items to justify his attendance. He also makes a point to discuss what he learned with his employer. "We host a chapter education event every year, so my boss understands there is more to our job than standard agronomic practices. He sees that we learn from each other."

I have seen meeting attendance increase slightly at chapter events across the region in the last couple of years. Chapter boards continue to look for a magic bullet to drive you, the members, to meetings. If there were one, they would have been using it! I have written about it before in this newsletter: all attendees are a resource for others. The value to all members is increased by your attendance!

That point was driven home at a recent chapter strategic planning session. This chapter will be looking to engage members who they have not seen at a meeting or event in a while. It will not be an easy goal to achieve. The board is convinced that members who attend a meeting find more value in their association, and are more inclined to engage other chapter events. The board understands that they must reach out, and actively promote and invite members to attend. Has anyone done that for you lately? Would you come to at least one more meeting if someone asked directly if you would attend?

Another colleague spent a long portion of a visit telling me how golf course superintendents need to play the game of golf. We should understand the rules, be aware of course markings, engage our customers and members and discuss the sport on every level. We are employed because of the game of golf; explain to those you answer to how important it is to attend meetings

and play.

There will always be one or more reasons to not go to a chapter meeting. If you attend regularly, thank you. I know I have benefitted because you were a part of the event. If you have not made a meeting in a while, please consider breaking that habit even just one time this year. Someone will benefit from information you share, and I am willing to bet that you will gain a lot from being there, no matter where "there" is!

GCSAA Resources and Deadlines

you Get Cool Stuff from your Association Already:

How your Equipment Manager can get you an R&R credit!

GCSAA has partnered with R&R Products to bring a special rebate program to GCSAA members. Current EM members who pass one Turf Equipment Technician Certificate Program exam will receive a \$95 rebate from R&R Products to be used towards your next R&R Products purchase.

This program expires on Dec. 31, 2017, so take advantage of this opportunity by visiting the new GCSAA website [here](#) today!

GCSAA Investigating Political Action Committee

GCSAA is exploring the launch of a political action committee in the fall of 2017. During 2016, government affairs staff presented the concept of a GCSAA PAC to the Government Affairs Committee, GCSAA Board of Directors and chapter delegates, and are now seeking feedback from the general membership on a GCSAA PAC. More information, and to view videos [follow this link](#). BE SURE TO PROVIDE YOUR FEEDBACK!

Upcoming FREE webcasts: May 17

[Telling Your Story...Why Bother?](#) John C. Fech

June 13 [What's that Weed?](#) Scott McElroy, Ph.D.

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

Kevin Doyle

GCSAA Field Staff

kdoyle@gcsaa.org

Follow me on Twitter @GCSAA_NE

THANK A GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENT WEEK

MAY 8 - 14



Why is this week important?

- *It's Thank A Golf Course Superintendent Week! We are driving awareness this week of the great contributions Golf Course Superintendents make to the game of golf.*
- *Superintendents skillfully manage the largest and most valuable asset of every golf facility – the golf course.*
- *Most golfers say well-maintained greens and bunkers are the most important aspect to their enjoyment and satisfaction in playing the game of golf.*
- *Thanks to the efforts of superintendents, we now have turf that needs less water, is more sustainable, and offers natural wildlife habitats on our courses.*
- *We are proud of the role they play in providing excellent playing conditions for this great game.*

Talk to us about what a superintendent does and why that role is so valuable.

- *Today's GCSAA superintendent is an educated leader with a broad base of facility management skills. They are trusted stewards of the land and oversee a facility's largest financial asset.*
- *Not only do superintendents manage all labor, materials and costs associated with keeping the course at its finest, they are also involved in the business-related activities of the facility including staffing and training.*
- *Superintendents strive to keep the environment safe while keeping their courses healthy and beautiful.*
- *Golf course superintendents are also environmental stewards. They guide courses to adopt water conservation practices, reduce irrigated acreage and use innovative technologies, such as targeted irrigation systems and ground moisture measurement tools, along with weather monitoring systems, providing the science to water only when and where it is needed.*

Golf Course Superintendent Association of America
1421 Research Park Drive • Lawrence, KS • 66049 • 800.472.7878