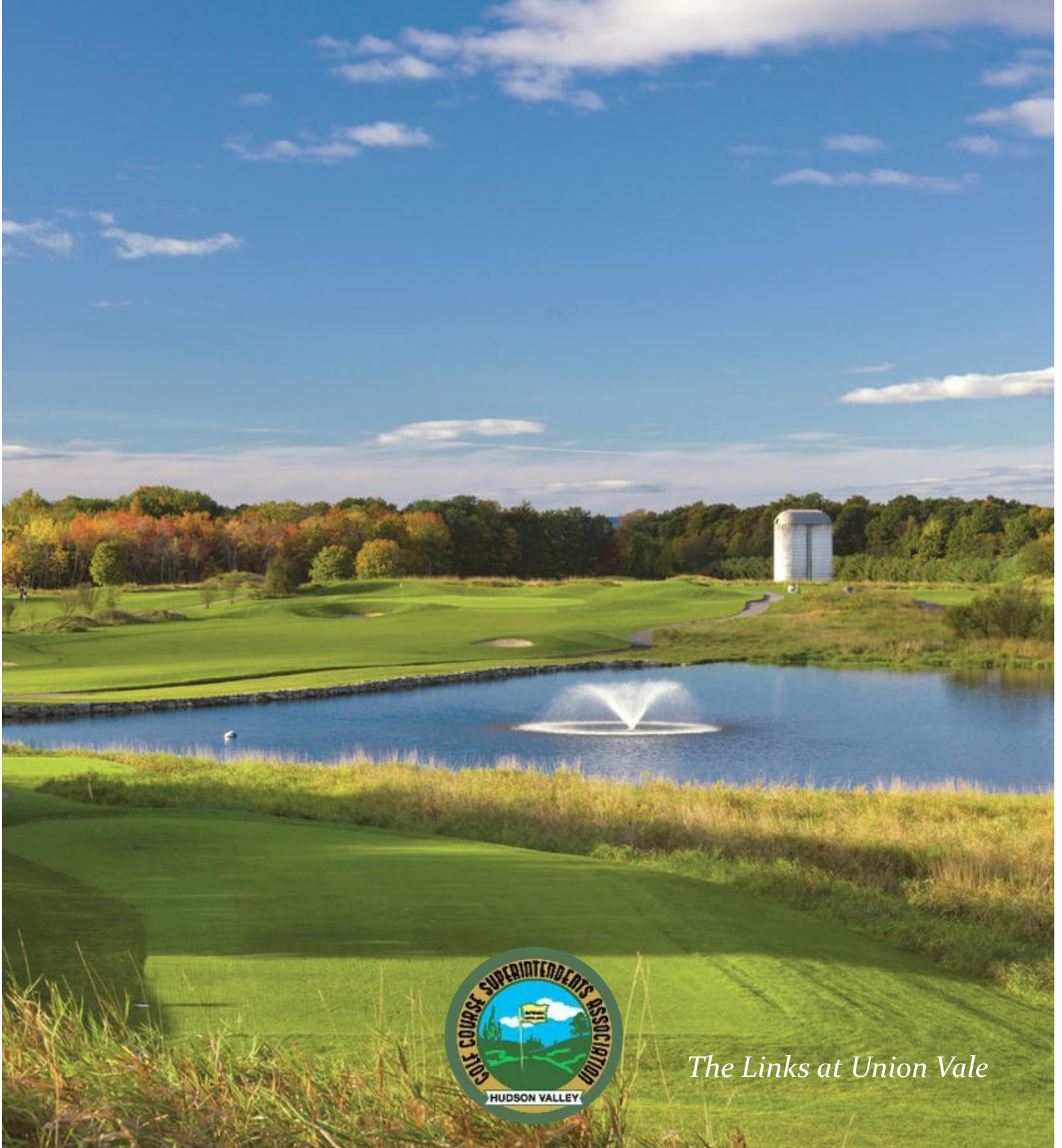


FOREGROUND

VOL. 62 NO. 3 Published by Hudson Valley Golf Course Superintendents Association June 2025



The Links at Union Vale

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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.



Links at Union Vale

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President's Message



It's U.S. Open week at the time I'm writing this so it'll be fun to see how Oakmont plays. It also means we get to see the media coverage highlight the maintenance practice du jour. An army of rotary mowers? Hand shears to trim collars? Is this completely necessary? I don't know but not my call. I can say it's unlikely Osiris CC will be implementing these practices anytime soon however. But in any event, it's an enjoyable tournament to watch.

In the world of Hudson Valley tournaments, Chris Strehl will be hosting the HV Cup at Links @ Union Vale on June 17th. The Cup always promises to be a great day of golf and camaraderie and I have no doubt this year will be any different.

Thank you to Jeff Newell for hosting our May meeting at Putnam County GC. The golf course was in great shape and a joy to play. Having never played the course before, I was very impressed with layout and design. Putnam County will certainly be on the list of courses to return to sooner than later.

I hope to see everyone come out to the Hudson Valley Cup for both a great day and in effort to help support the funding of our association research and scholarships!

Reese Wasson

President

Scholarship Applications

DEADLINE: JULY 1, 2025

Click [HERE](#) for applications
or go to our website
HVGCSA.org (member's page)

Any questions contact Susan
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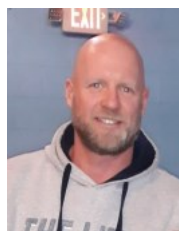
The Links at Union Vale to Host the 2025 Hudson Valley Cup

It's that time of year again!! The HVGCSA's premiere fund-raising event will be held on Tuesday, June 17th at the Links at Union Vale in Lagrangeville, NY. The Hudson Valley Cup is enjoying its 34th year as a charity tournament to raise money for scholarships and turfgrass research. This tournament was the brainchild of long time HVGCSA member Dan Madar and it's still going strong. Our host, Chris Strehl, is looking forward to hosting this event and is hoping for a big turnout. For those of you that haven't had the pleasure of playing "The Links", you will love it. It's a perfect course for a scramble format because it is so long and difficult.

The Links at Union Vale

Our meeting site on the 14th was once a farm owned by the late Karl Ehmer, the "King of Quality Meats". Upon Karl's death, the farm was purchased by the Irish Golf Association (IGA) in the mid-nineties with the aim of building a quality "links style" course on the property. Construction began in 1998 under the watchful eye of the Burton F. Clark Company. The course opened for play in June of 2000. It's not an easy layout to score on, playing some 6,900 yards from the championship tees. Ninety-seven bunkers dot the course with beautiful native areas framing the distinctive rolling fairways. There is not a lot of primary rough and the wind blows all the time. There are some very challenging holes to conquer. The 15th is a 460-yard par-four with out-of-bounds left and #14 is a monster par-five measuring 603 yards in length. It's going to be a fun scramble!!

Chris Strehl



"Links" Superintendent Chris Strehl began his career as an intern in 1991 at Ridgewood CC after graduating with a bachelor's degree in Plant Science from SUNY Cobleskill. In 1992, Chris left to work at Orange County CC for another Walsh alumnus, Tim Garceau. When

Tim moved on to the Tuxedo Club, Chris followed to serve as his first assistant.

In 1998 Chris was hired by the IGA to grow in "The Links". 2025 marks Chris's 27th year at the golf course. Despite the challenges of a tight budget, Chris manages to keep "The Links" in great shape. Notwithstanding having a small crew to care for this huge property, Chris carries on with a fearsome determination. That's just the way Chris rolls, he keeps plugging away and moving forward. No excuses!!

And I have to say one other thing. Chris was a "beekeeper" way before it was popular. Chris has always maintained hives at the property. He used to have one in his office which was very interesting to study. So, don't forget, Chris was the OG of beekeeping in the Hudson Valley.

The best thing that ever happened in Chris' life is his soulmate Debbie. Debbie and Chris tied the knot in 2004. Together they have built quite a life. The Strehl clan reside at the course along with River and Brooke, the family dogs.

We will see you on June 17th!!

Kevin Collins



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Hudson Valley Cup



The Links at Union Vale

153 N. Parliman Rd, Lagrangeville, NY

Tuesday, June 17, 2025

Host: Chris Strehl, GCS



10:15AM Registration

11:00 AM Lunch

12:00 PM Golf: Shotgun 4-Person Scramble

**Handicap required

4:30 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



Meeting Schedule

June 17th

HV Cup

Host: Chris Strehl
The Links at Union Vale

July 21st

Nine & Dine

Host: Chris Dyroff
Philip J. Rotella Memorial Golf Course

August 11th

NYSTA Challenge

Host: Tony Steppich
The Monster at Resorts World

September 16th

Met Team Qualifier

Host: Chris Kemble
McCann Memorial Golf Course

October 7th

Worthington Cup

Host: Reese Wasson
Osiris Country Club

October 20th

Met Team Championship

Host: Jeff Scott, CGCS
Tamarack Country Club

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Hudson Valley News of Interest:

By: Kevin Collins



*HVGCSA President Reese Wasson enjoys nothing more than a day on the water fishing for Striped Bass. Word has it that he's been spending most of his time on his new 75' Princess X80 fishing boat. Reese hasn't been seen at work since mid-May. In fact, his close friends are saying that Reese plans to retire. They say that Reese came into a literal boatload of money in the past month. Something to do with Covid-19 gift cards.



*Wallkill GC's Jay Werbalowsky always enjoys giving back to the industry that has been so good to him. He's seen here addressing some young "turfsters" that are part of the GCSAA's First Green program. It's a hands-on program for students K-12 that includes lessons on wildlife habitat, soil science, environmental sustainability and more. About a minute after this picture was taken and about five minutes into his talk, Jay fell asleep on his triplex. A known narcoleptic, Jay's losing consciousness is a normal occurrence and the people that know and love Jay are used to it and don't make a big deal about it. The kids had their morning snack during the 10 or so minutes Jay was passed out. When he woke up, he continued his talk. Fun was had by all.



*There was a near confrontation at a recent HVGCSA meeting between Hudson Hill's Grover Lee Alexander and Rotella's Chris Dyroff. Grover was doing one of his "Beekeeper" presentations for the association when Chris hit him with an accusation about the quality of the honey Grover harvests from his hives. In a word, Chris disparaged Grover's honey and said he could get better quality honey from the Dollar Store. Grover packed up his presentation and stormed out of the meeting. I don't think this is over. Stay tuned!



*Here is GCSAA's Kevin Doyle, in all his sartorial splendor, at this year's Preakness Stakes in Baltimore, MD. Kevin and GCSAA CEO J. Rhett Evans actually had a horse in the race. Kevin and Rhett purchased the horse a year ago in a claiming race at Upson Downs Race Track for \$98.00. After hiring famed trainer D. Wayne Lucas, the horse "Swishbuckler" showed marked improvement and was able to qualify for the Preakness. Sadly, "Swishbuckler" failed to finish the race as he hopped over the rail in the backstretch to confront hecklers in the infield. Nonetheless, Kevin was proud to wear "Swishbuckler's" colors on this fateful day.



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BOARD OF DIRECTORS CORNER

Storm King Update: Construction, Chaos & AutoMowers

Just when we thought we were in for a *normal* season at Storm King... surprise! We're back under construction.

Picture this: tees getting a full makeover, drainage ditches being dug, and parts of the course deciding they needed a spontaneous glow-up. It's like the entire property woke up one morning and said, "*Let's change everything!*"

And in the middle of all this? A fleet of 18 adorable Automowers buzzing around like it's the most important party of the year. That's right—18 little green machines doing their best to mow through the madness.



Of course, they're having a bit of a rough go with all the sod cutters, excavators, and curious humans interfering with their routes. Navigating a construction site while doing precision lawn care? Tough gig.

Enter Wes Foster: *Automower Wrangler Extraordinaire*. He's been out there keeping the robotic crew in line and on task—a true MVP.

Now, about the weather... it's been soggy. Really soggy. But the Automowers? They don't mind one bit. Rain or shine, they're out there putting in the work. One even went full action-hero during a storm—got smacked by a branch and took a dramatic dive into a puddle. No harm done (we think), just another day in the life.

Here's hoping for some sunshine, smoother days, and maybe—just maybe—a “normal” season soon. Fingers crossed!

Ben Babbage
Storm King Golf Club

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First Green 2025, Millbrook Golf and Tennis Club



Our 4th annual First Green field trip was yet again a tad damp but nonetheless, the kids had a great day. The day before we went back and forth whether to cancel the day because of the weather, but when the teachers said, “we are up for a little rain”, we were all in! Fifty 3rd grade students from Alden Place Elementary School enjoyed around three hours of fun and learning on the morning of May 14th.



The kids stopped at 5 different stations (Equipment Demos and a putting contest, Cool Tools on the golf course, Bees and Pollinators, Water Quality and Pond Life, and finally Soils and Cup Cutting) in and around the golf course. The more hands on the stations were, the more engaged the kids became. Even at the 3rd grade level, the students came up with a variety of pertinent questions. Agronomy 101 was most definitely led by Mr. Greg Moran with follow-up questions that the kids aced!

I'd like to thank our industry (and local) volunteers, that without them, this day does not happen: Greg Moran, Jason Werbalowsky, Ryan Avery (with his wife due with their 4th child just days away), Andy Eick, Mike Weber, Chris Strehl, Joe Perry, Matt Topazio, Steve Whipple, Kevin Doyle and GCSAA director Greg Jones, Scott Olson, our staff at MGT (Brian Kelly, David Miller, Jason Zmudosky, Jake Wilber, and Sam Kelly)

If you or someone you know is interested in hosting one of these fantastic events, please contact me and I'll walk you through the entire process. It is one of the most rewarding days of the year. The feedback we've received from the school, the chaperone parents, and the teachers has been overwhelmingly positive. “Best field trip ever!”, “I'm going to work here someday!”, “This was so much fun!”. I will leave you with a few pictures that further represent the great day we had. Oh, and finally, no one jumped in the pond this year!

Dan Wilber



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May Meeting @ Putnam County GC....recap

It was a great day at Putnam County Golf Course, and fun was had by all! Huge thanks to our host, Jeff Newell, for having the course in excellent shape despite the heavy rainfall this spring. It was wild to see water seeping from the hills across the property—but Jeff and his crew did an outstanding job keeping things playable.

Thanks to everyone at the club for the warm hospitality throughout the day.

Winners

Winning Team: Jim Biordi and Team Dogwood Knolls

Closest to the Pin: Grover Alexander

Looking ahead, I hope everyone can make it out to the Links for the **HV Cup**. Word is Chris has the greens rolling at *Oakmont speeds*—should be a great test!

Cheers,
Matt



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