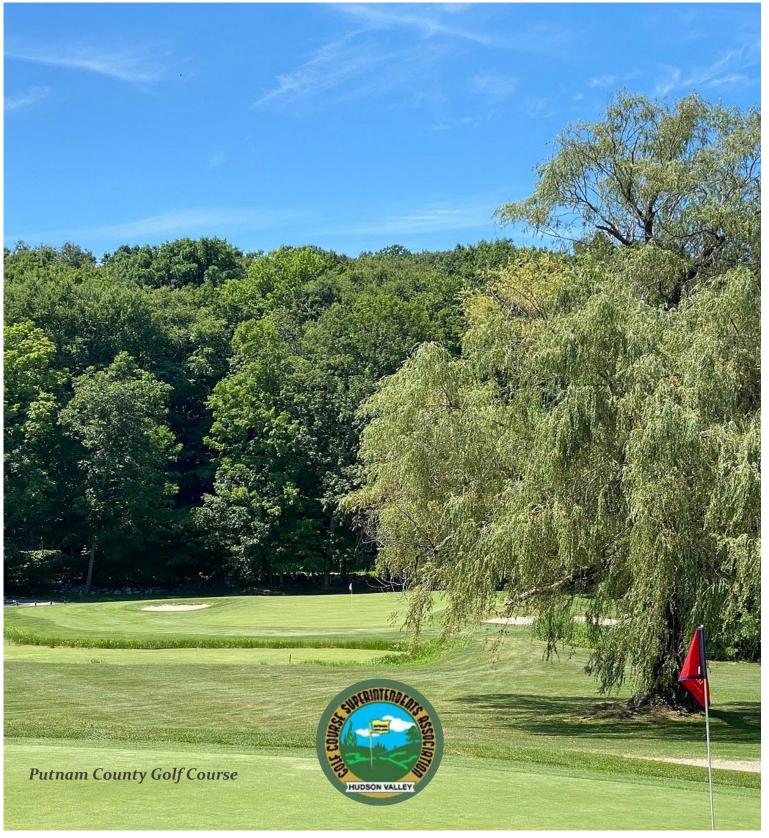
FOREGROUND

VOL. 62 NO. 2 Published by Hudson Valley Golf Course Superintendents Association May 2025



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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



With the season now fully upon us, I hope everyone is getting back into the groove smoothly. The spring has seemingly been kind to most of us so far. Between the moderate temps and timely rainfall I can't complain about Mother Nature much. Give it a month and that all may change!

It was great to see everyone who came out to our

first meeting of the year at Hudson Hills GC. The weather was ideal and Grover had the course in great shape. The conditions were so ideal that Jeff Newell had a hole in one! I'm sure Jeff's wallet appreciated that the club was already providing free drinks after the round. Speaking of Jeff, Putnam County Golf Course will be hosting our May meeting on the 13th. I'm looking forward to playing the course and the opportunity to spend the day with the HVGCSA.

On a separate note, I'd encourage all our members to support our HVGCSA sponsors whenever possible. All our sponsors play a vital role in the success of our association and our ability to put on monthly meetings, the winter seminar, and year end party. Our supporting sponsors can be found in the membership directory, HVGCSA website, as well as at our meeting sites. Thank you for your continued support!

Reese Wasson

President





Millbrook Golf and Tennis Club will be hosting its fourth annual First Green field trip on Wednesday, May 14th 2025. First Green is an innovative environmental education outreach program using golf courses as hands-on STEM learning labs.

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

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Putnam County GC to host HVGCSA May Meeting



On Tuesday, May 13th, Jeff Newell and Putnam County GC will host the HVGCSA's May meeting. It's been a while since PCGC has hosted a meeting. Troon is now managing operations at the course and Jeff is starting his second year there as the superintendent. It's a fun tract to play and they have a great clubhouse and event space to hang out in after the golf so it's going to be a great day.

About Jeff:



Jeff was born in Cornwall, NY in 1966. Jeff's parents, Bruce and Dorothy, were both gainfully employed at the US Military Academy at West Point. Bruce was a sheet metal worker and Dorothy worked at the Cadet PX. The

Newell family resided in Highland Falls which included Jeff's younger brother Brett.

It was Jeff's best friend since kindergarten, Rotella Super Chris Dyroff, who got Jeff started in the turf business. Chris had been working at Garrison GC for Rich Browne and told Jeff that he could get a job there if he wanted it. "So, I went to see Rich and he hired me," said Jeff, "I got all the grunt work assignments like raking traps and weed-eating. I worked on the crew until 1987 when I got a job with Cablevi-

sion. I really didn't like the job so the next year I went back to work at Garrison. I stayed there until 1997. Chris was working at Dellwood CC so I joined him there for the 1998 season. Right after that season, Rich Browne called me and offered me the assistant's position at Garrison so I went back there in 1999. I attended Rutgers University in 2000 and 2001 and received my Associates Degree in Turfgrass Management."

Rich Browne retired after the 2004 season and Jeff became Garrison's superintendent. In 2005, Chris came back to Garrison as an assistant after a stint as superintendent at Southern Dutchess CC. Chris became Jeff's co-superintendent in 2009 before leaving Garrison a couple years later to become the superintendent at PJ Rotella in Rockland County. Jeff stayed at Garrison until the course officially closed for good in 2021.

The Garrison years for Jeff were totally about his close friendships with both Chris and Rich Browne, who Jeff & Chris affectionately referred to as "Pops". "Rich was like my second father," said Jeff, "He would do anything for you. He'd give you his last dollar or the shirt off his back if you needed it." Sadly, Rich passed away a few years back. He may be gone but he's never forgotten.

Garrison closed as a golf venue in 2021. Jeff became the superintendent at Southern Dutchess CC for the 2022 and 2023 seasons. Jeff applied for the Putnam County CC job when Troon took over the management contract for the course and he nailed it, becoming the superintendent in March of 2024. "It's been going great. I love working for Troon. It's been a good experience." said Jeff.

Jeff lives in Fort Montgomery, NY with his girlfriend Kim. They own a house together. Kim works for FedEx. When they are not working they both love to travel and let loose.



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Putnam County GC & Jeff Newell....cont'd



Putnam County GC

Putnam County Golf Course was designed by William Mitchell and opened for play in 1959 as the Putnam Country Club. Mitchell utilized the natural landscape of the property in his design, resulting in rolling fairways and dramatic elevation changes. The club remained private for many years throughout a variety of ownership changes and was eventually renamed The Coun-

try Club at Lake MacGregor for the lake adjacent to the property.

The golf course and surrounding property were purchased by Putnam County in 2004 becoming the first municipally-owned golf course in the county. The natural scenic beauty of the property coupled with a challenging 18-hole champion-ship golf course has made Putnam County GC a popular venue for area golfers. The course averages between 37.000-38,000 rounds a year. The course plays close to 6,700 yards from the back tees.

We'll see you there!

Kevin Collins

Condolences



Steve Luty from Callicoon, NY passed away March 29, 2025.

Back in the 8o's & 9o's Steve was the superintendent at Villa Roma and played an instrumental role in the construction of the Golf Course, leaving a lasting mark on the local golfing community. He was active member of the HVGCSA and hosted many meetings.

Our condolences to his family and friends.

Obituary

BIG TICKET GIVEAWAY GCSAA Conference 2026 Enter to WIN A TRIP!

Package Includes:

- ♦ Full Conference Registration
- ♦ Airfare
- ♦ (4) Nights Hotel
- ♦ (2) Education Seminars (1 full day & 1 half day)
- ♦ \$200 spending allowance

Criteria:

- Must be a Class A, B or C member of the Hudson Valley GCSA and be in good standing
- 2. Must be active within the Association
- 3. Have not attended the GCSAA Conference & Show within the past 5 years
- 4. Must submit a brief essay as to how the trip will benefit you and your facility.
- 5. Must submit a written article outlining your experience for the Foreground Newsletter
 - *Winner will be chosen by the Board of Directors
 - * The Chosen candidate will not be eligible for an other 5 years

Deadline to enter: September 30, 2025





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Hudson Valley News of Interest;

By: Kevin Collins



*Putnam County GC Super Jeff Newell scored a hole-in-one at Hudson Hills in April. All was well until Hole-In-One International looked at the statistical probability of Jeff scoring a hole-in-one. It was determined that Jeff's hole-in-one was statistically impossible. In the entire history of mankind, no golfer whose handicap is higher than his age has scored a one on any par 3.....anywhere or anytime. When Hole-In-One International was informed that Dan Wilber witnessed the hole-in-one, Hole-In-One International's response was that Dan must have been high.



*The Powelton Club goats are out of control. Despite his best efforts to reduce the goat population at his golf course, Super Mike Aube is losing the battle and the war. He's tried everything including loading the goats into a van and releasing them into a Buffalo, NY nature preserve. The goats were back in two weeks after walking the entire 400 miles from Buffalo to Newburgh. What started as a single goat on the property has exploded to 53 goats at last count. Is there anything more annoying than hearing the constant bleating of 53 goats?



*Patriot Hill's Super Evan Weymouth loves spoiling his favorite bulldog Brady. He's seen here buying some stuffed rabbit toys for his lovable canine. Brady usually rips the bejesus out of these toys in short order and the stuffing gets strewn all over the house which, according to Sally, clogs the vacuum. Sally is not happy!



*This is the last known photo of Storm King's Ben Babbage. It was taken moments before Ben was scooped up in the bucket of this excavator and disposed of. It seems Ben suffered the same fate as his robotic mower, disappearing off the face of the planet with no explanation and never to be found again. Let's hope that's not the case. If anyone has any information about Ben's whereabouts, please call 1-800-555-TIPS. All calls will be kept confidential.



Scholarship Applications

DEADLINE: JULY 1, 2025

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

Meeting Schedule

May 13th

Host: Jeff Newell
Putnam Golf Course

June 17th HV Cup

Host: Chris Strehl
The Links at Union Vale

July 14th Nine & Dine

Host: Ben Babbage Storm King Golf Club

August 11th NYSTA Challenge

Host: Tony Steppich
The Monster at Resorts World

September 15th

Host: Chris Kemble

McCann Memorial Golf Course

October TBD Worthington Cup

Host: Reese Wasson
Osiris Country Club



BOARD OF DIRECTORS CORNER

Do You Have a Retirement Plan?

One of the greatest blessings in my life was the day I became a full-time employee at Mohonk. My boss, the Head Groundskeeper, walked me down to HR and strongly encouraged me to sign up for their retirement plan, at that time Mohonk was matching 50 percent up to a total 6 percent of your contribution. I decid-



ed to contribute 10 percent. When I first became Mohonk's Greenskeeper (GC Superintendent) I had not intended to stay very long, a few years maybe then move on to larger or more prestigious properties. As it turned out, I left Mohonk after 30 years 25 of which I was full time and contributed to their retirement plan. I left the funds in that plan until my wife was planning her retirement.

Why did I open with that story. Simple, if you are under 35 and you don't have any retirement plan set up yet, get on it now. Don't wait, you have the advantage of years of compounding interest. Don't think you can afford it? You can't afford to retire without it. If your employer has a plan available, get yourself signed up. If you don't have any formal plan through work I encourage you to set up an IRA (Individual Retirement Account). A traditional IRA is tax deferred retirement plan that allows you to contribute up to \$7,000 a year. In most cases the funds you contribute toward an IRA will reduce your taxable income by the amount you contribute. As an example, if you start your IRA savings at 35 and retire at 65 (30 years) you should yield over \$900,000 thanks to 30 years of compounding interest. (Calculated using AARP's Traditional IRA Calculator)

How to set one up? Contact an investment firm, check with your bank, do a quick google search, there are several ways to get this critical part of your future started. Can't do \$7,000? Do something, start now (or at least this year).

Older than 35 and still do not have a retirement plan? No worries. You can still put away a nice nest egg if you get started. The key here is the sooner the better. After 50 you can increase your contribution limit by \$1,000. So, if you are 50 and this year start putting \$8,000 a year in an IRA and plan on retiring at 65 you will yield around \$182,000. You can find several calculators online.

I hope I have convinced those of you who are young to start putting money away for your retirement. That compounding interest is the key to having a substantial retirement fund. I would recommend everyone find an investment manager or financial planner regardless of your age and put a financial plan in place for your future. Don't leave your future to chance take an active role in creating a plan.

Tom Wright Shawangunk Golf Course

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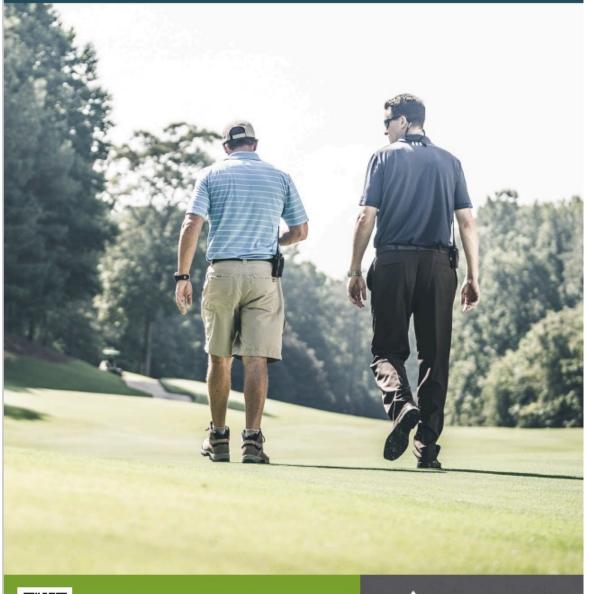
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SUNY Delhi Honors Exceptional Alumni and Staff with Awards



Congratulations to Steve Whipple on receiving an award from SUNY Delhi.

He was recognized with the Distinguished Alumnus Award for his advocacy for SUNY Delhi's academic programs while excelling in his career in the golf course industry. A native of Davenport, NY, Whipple received an associate degree in

Golf Course Operations from SUNY Delhi in 1998 and a bachelor's degree in Turfgrass Science from the Pennsylvania State University in 2000. Since 2003, Mr. Whipple has served as the Golf Program Manager and Golf Course Superintendent at the United States Military Academy at West Point. He manages the military facility, an 18-hole course, a \$2.1 million annual budget, and all facets of the golf course operations and agronomic practices. He has helped West Point achieve the rank of the second-highest profit-generating Army golf course in the continental United States. Whipple has been involved with and managed multiple multi-million-dollar projects involving the design and construction of a clubhouse, irrigation installation, and turf maintenance facility construction. He has received many commendations from West Point, including the Commander's Award for Civilian Service. He is the President of the New York State Turfgrass Association (NYSTA) and serves on the SUNY Delhi Golf/Sports Field Turf Management Program Advisory Council. Mr. Whipple resides in Rock Tavern, NY, with his young family.

Press Release SUNY Delhi: Click **HERE** to download full article.



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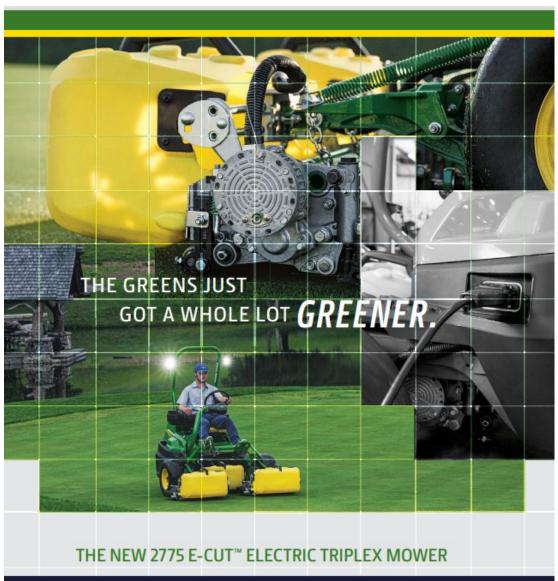
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APRIL MEETING AT HUDSON HILLS.....RECAP

Thank you to Grover, Gerard, Doug & all the Hudson Hills staff for hosting our April Meeting and to all our sponsors for their continued support. We had a great turnout for our first event of the season. It was the perfect Spring day that felt more like Summer. The golf course was in excellent condition.

Congratulations to Jeff Newell on getting his first **Hole-In-One** and to Team Weber for turning in an impressive scorecard of (54).

Here are the results: Format was Scramble

First Place Team: Mike Weber, Reese Wasson & Scott Estey......54

Second Place Team:

Evan Weymouth, Mike McFadden & Red Hewitt.....58

Third Place Team:

Jeff Newell, Chris Dyroff, Dan Wilber & Brian Kelly......66

Closest to Pin: Hole 6 "HOLE-IN-ONE" Jeff Newell

Closest to Pin: Hole 11 - Tim Walker

Longest Drive: Mike McFadden (Evan's guest)

















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HVGCSA May Meeting



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Putnam County Golf Course

187 Hill Street, Mahopac, NY Tuesday, May 13, 2025

Host: Jeff Newell

9:00 Registration & Continental Breakfast

10:00 Golf: Shotgun

Format: 4-Person Shamble

2:30 Food, Cash Bar & Prizes

Fee: \$130 - (Food, Golf & Prizes)

\$45 - (Food Only)

Dress Code: Proper Golf Attire

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