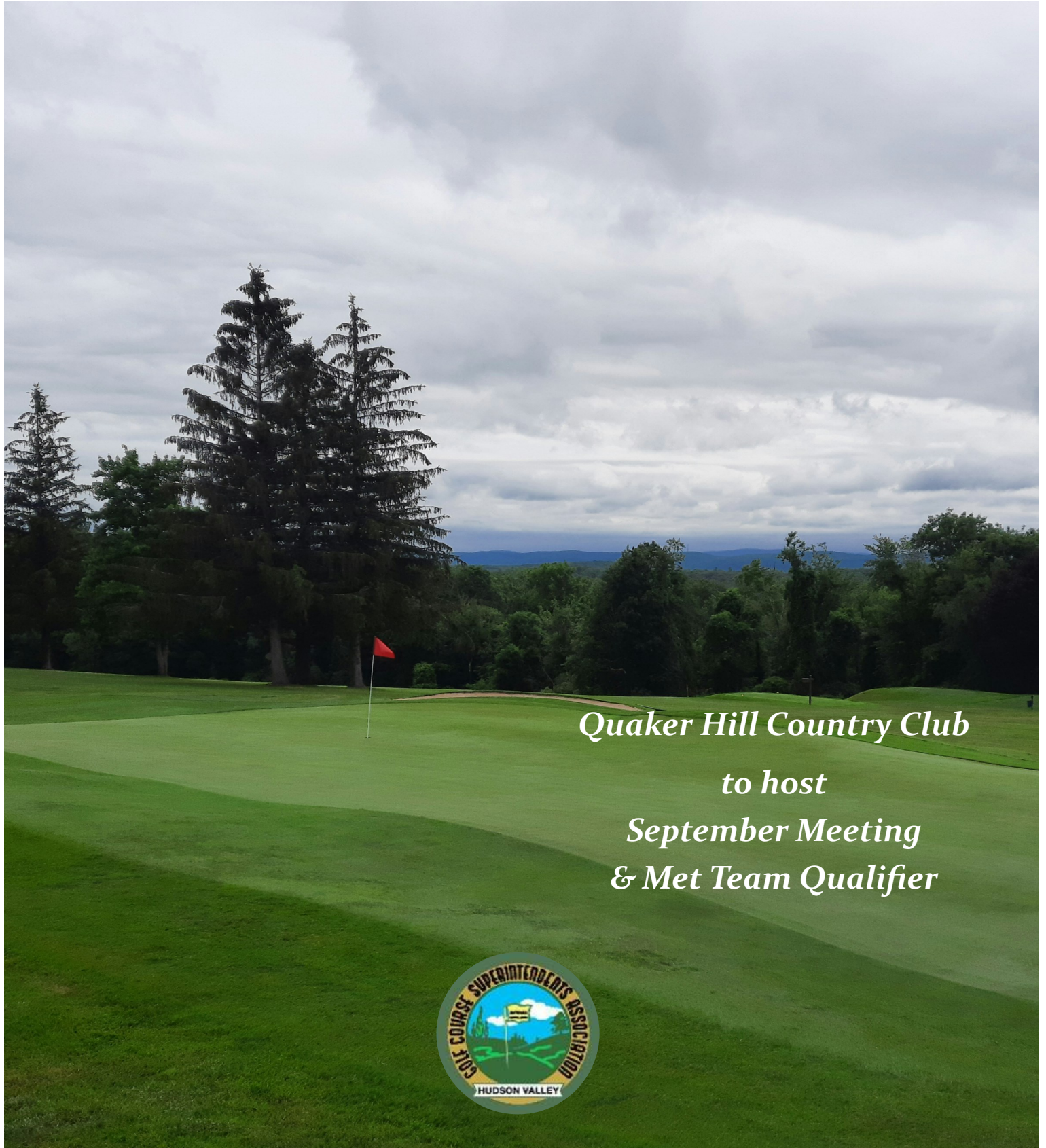


FOREGROUND

VOL. 60 NO. 4 Published by Hudson Valley Golf Course Superintendents Association August 2023



Quaker Hill Country Club
to host
September Meeting
& *Met Team Qualifier*



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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



I can't believe it's almost September already. Summer has flown by. This will undoubtedly go down as another wild season. What started out as a cold and dry spring, followed by a wet start to May, then what seemed like a continuation of last summer's drought, turned into relentless rain. I felt like it rained every other day in July through the first half of August. Here's to hoping the remainder of the season goes well!

I want to thank Chris Dyroff and his staff for a great 9 & Dine at PJ Rotella Golf Course. We had a nice turnout, and it was a lot of fun. I still think Chris had the winning shirt! I know he and his assistant Scott (his wife Amy was on Channel 7 news) went through hell leading up to that day with all the flooding rains. I wish them and all the others who were affected by that well and good fortune moving forward. We also handed out 4 scholarships this day. Congratulations to all the winners!

Unfortunately, the NYSTA Challenge at Wiltwyck got rained out. I'm sure Jason Nalepa had the golf course in great shape and was looking forward to hosting the event. Next year!

The Hudson Valley GCSA was a proud sponsor at the 1st Annual Jack Strehl Memorial Scholarship outing at the Links at Union Vale. It was great to see Chris and his wife as well as all of the industry support this event. Most of us managed to beat the heavy downpour that came right at the end of the round. I heard Dave Lippman's group quit with 2 holes to play due to the rain. They said there were 2 groups waiting on the 10th tee (which was a hit the green contest), evidently Greg Moran and Red were holding up the whole golf course playing as a twosome. They have next year's date already booked, July 18, 2024.

We are fast approaching the deadline for our Big-Ticket Giveaway, a trip to the Golf Industry Show! We have opened it up to Assistant members this year as well as Super-intendents. The Winter Seminar/Annual Meeting is locked in for January at Resorts World at Monticello. This will certainly be a great day of education!

As my term as your President comes to a quick close, I suppose it is time to reflect on my board service. I never thought I'd have had this opportunity several years ago. I am humbled by the experience. We hopefully managed the association in a positive direction. It is getting tougher every year with diminishing attendance at meetings, difficulty finding sites to host meetings, and finding new board members to serve. With that said, we are in the process of finding sites for 2024, if you would like to host a meeting please reach out to the board. If you would like to get involved with the board, I encourage you to volunteer, it is a rewarding experience and an opportunity to give back to the association. It really doesn't require a lot of time. Just dedication. If you are interested in serving the board, reach out to myself or Chris Kemble (Past President).

Next up on September 11th will be our meeting at Quaker Hill, I am certain Kevin Collins and the others are planning a spectacular day. This will also be our second and final Met Team Championship Qualifier. Then we will be at Leewood Golf Club, October 3rd for the Worthington Cup.

Here's to a great fall and end of the season.

All the best,

Tim

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Quaker Hill Country Club

to host September Meeting & Met Team Qualifier

By: Kevin Collins

Quaker Hill CC and Superintendent Gary Lattrell will host the HVGCSA on Monday, September 11th. There will be great golf, great food, libations, and maybe gummies if someone is holding.

Our hosts for the meeting are long-time Superintendent/Facilities Manager Gary Latrell and his amazing sidekicks Andrew Carroll and Robin Silvernail. This is Gary's last year as superintendent after a glorious 45-year run. Andrew will be taking over the reins in 2024. Our Head Pro Tony Vos will be in attendance along with our legendary food purveyors Rich and Cassie Pierente.



And let's not forget about QHCC's founder, Lowell Thomas, who made this all possible. You can feel his presence when you're in the clubhouse or playing the golf course, his singular vision. He left us 42 years ago in body but not in spirit. He's still roaming the grounds.

Lowell Thomas

Lowell Jackson Thomas was an American writer, actor, broadcaster, and traveler, best remembered for introducing T.E. Lawrence (Lawrence of Arabia) to the world.

Thomas was born in 1892 in Woodington, Ohio. After graduating from Valparaiso University and the University of Denver with Bachelor and Master's degrees in education and science, Lowell taught oratory from 1912-1914 at the Chicago-Kent College of Law while simultaneously writing columns for the Chicago Journal. In 1916, he moved to New Jersey where he completed his studies and received another Master's degree at Princeton University before briefly joining the teaching staff there.

Lowell was a restless soul and yearned to be on the road.

He reveled in new experiences and adventures and was a relentless self-promotor. He would persuade railroads to give him free passage in exchange for articles extolling rail travel. When visiting Alaska, he hit on the idea of the travelogue, movies about faraway places.

When the United States entered World War 1, President Wilson sent him and other journalists to Europe to "compile a history of the conflict". The war was not popular in the U.S. and Thomas was sent to find material to encourage the American people to support it. Lowell did not merely want to write about the war, he wanted to film it.

Thomas and cameraman Harry Chase first went to the Western Front and then Italy without finding much "inspiration" for the American people. In Italy, he heard of British General Allenby's campaign against the Ottoman Empire. With the permission of the British Foreign Office, Thomas and Chase headed to the Middle East.

In Jerusalem Thomas met T.E. Lawrence, a captain in the British Army stationed there. Lawrence was financing the inhabitants of Palestine to rebel against the Turks. Thomas and Chase spent several weeks with Lawrence in the desert. Lawrence agreed to provide Thomas with material on the condition that he interview and photograph Arab leaders and tell their side of the story.

When Thomas returned to the states, the dramatic footage of Lawrence morphed into a

U.S. lecture tour on the war in Palestine "supported by moving pictures of veiled women, Arabs in their picturesque robes, camels and dashing Bedouin cavalry." Lowell's lectures were very popular and audiences large and he "took the nation by storm." The lecture tour subsequently moved to London where Thomas enthralled the British public for the next six months.

During his long and distinguished career Thomas was a teacher, journalist, magazine editor, radio commentator and broadcaster (many of his broadcasts were transmitted from the barn at Quaker Hill), television news anchor, "Movietone News" anchor for Twentieth Century Fox (this is how everyone got their news in the local theatre before television), and a prolific author, penning over 50 books. He is a recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, our nation's highest civilian honor. Lowell was a national institution. His radio program lasted 46

Continued.....page 18



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WALLKILL MEETING RECAP.....



Our June meeting at Wallkill Golf Club turned out to be a very nice day for our 30+ members and guest that attended. Thank you Jay Werbalowsky and all the staff at Wallkill for hosting our event. They went above and beyond to make sure all went well. The weather was great and the food was delicious. Jay and his staff had the course in excellent condition.

There was some great golf played! Joe Meyer from Villa Roma & Dave Lippman from Westchester Turf tied with an impressive gross score of (76). There was a match of cards to determine the winner.

Here are the results

Low Gross Winner: (match of cards)**

Joe Meyer, Villa Roma (76)**

Dave Lippman, Westchester Turf (76)

Low Net Winner: John Wickes, Davey Tree

Closest to Pin: Brian O'Malley, River Vale CC

Long Drive: Cody Bojo, Villa Roma

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Joe Meyer — Low Gross Winner



*John Wickes
Low Net
Winner*



Closest to Pin Winner

Long Drive Winner!



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Hudson Valley News of Interest!

By: Kevin Collins



*Hudson Valley President Tim Walker and Executive Turf's Ken Gentile both won a spot on the 2024 "Nude Boating Captains" Calendar. Sponsored by Evinrude Out-

board Motors, the calendar can be found hanging in every boatyard & marina in the country. Tim is scheduled to be the May 2024 "beefcake" and Ken is slated for July. Congrats on a great honor.



*PJ Rotella superintendent Chris Dyroff scored the winning goal at the National Senior Hockey Championship held recently in Vancouver, Canada. Playing for the U.S. National Team, Chris scored on a penalty shot in the closing

moments of the final game to beat the Canadian National Team 3-2. The Canadian goaltender, Alois' Petit, became enraged at the US Team's celebration after the goal and slashed Chris with his goalie stick. Chris promptly beat the tar out of Alois'. No one on the Canadian Team came to Alois' defense.



*Patriot Hills Super Evan Weymouth and his better half Sally (who did all the work) have welcomed their first child into the world, daughter Ariana Concetta Weymouth. Brady the bulldog is absolutely thrilled.



*Toro's Guy Gurney is truly the proud father at his son's high school graduation. Even more impressive is the cool outfit Guy is wearing. Guy buys all his clothes on line. If you like the look you can visit Co-saNostraFashions.com. Very reasonable prices. If your order exceeds \$200.00 they will send you a free set of brass knuckles. Now that's a deal.



*Here's a great picture of HV Golf Foundation Super Ben Babbage enjoying a gin martini at a family function. It was taken about 5 minutes before Ben fell off his deck.



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Is Golf in “Jeopardy?”

by Ken Benoit, CGCS

Contestant: I'll take “Golf” for \$1,000.

Host: This is the most important advancement ever in golf.

Contestant: What are Best Management Practices?

Host: Correct.

What is the most important advancement in golf? Depending on who you ask, the answer could range from developments in golf club technology, ball construction, spikeless shoe designs, and innovations in turfgrass equipment technology, or less toxic pesticide for workers to handle. However, these examples are not the single most important advancement in golf.

Most of the population, 92% in the US, could not care less about how much further or accurately a golfer can hit a ball or that superintendents can aerify their greens more efficiently and with less disruption.

Non-golfers are not interested in golf's rich traditions, your course, or the technological advancements that people inside golf spend billions of dollars on each year. What they do care about is how your game impacts their community, such as the quality of water their children drink.

If golf had no impact outside the course property boundaries, non-golfers wouldn't think twice about how you maintain the turfgrass. However, that is not the case. What golf does on its property does impact their surrounding communities and beyond.

Considering the impact Best Management Practices can have on the population as a whole, they are the single most important development the golf world has ever seen. If you have any doubts, try searching for “golf and the environment” on Google and see what results come up. It is not a pleasant sight, in fact, it is quite shocking. Your screen will be filled with links to articles discussing various issues such as excessive water and fertiliz-

Continued.....page 21

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4. Must submit a brief essay as to how the trip will benefit you and your facility.

Due by September 30, 2023

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 another 5 years

The Rebirth of the Concord Golf Course

“Monster Golf Club at Resorts World in the Catskills opened August 29th”

The renowned Concord Golf Course that opened in 1963 and was once the longest golf course in the world 7650 yds has been re-vamped and re-designed by Ree Jones into a less fearsome golf course named the “**Monster**” and is now opened to the public.



The late **John Sauchuk** was superintendent at the Concord & Grossinger's before retiring in 1995.

The new version of the course is about 320 yards less (7327) Par-72, with wider fairways and fewer bunkers, but according to Rees Jones you'll know you are on the Monster when you play the 18th hole.

Tony Steppich the superintendent and HVGCSA member is looking forward to hosting a HV meeting at the Monster in the near future.

A Fond Farewell to our Long Time Members

Raymond McNamara, retired Class A member. Joined the HVGCSA in 1970. Passed away September 2022. Condolences to Mike, Pat and all the McNamara family and friends.

Fran Berdine, retired Class AF member. Joined the HVGCSA in 1973. Passed away May 2023. Condolences to his family & friends

John Sauchuk, retired Class A member. Joined the HVGCSA in 1970. Passed away August 2023. Condolences to his family & friends.

Member News

Welcome New Members!



Steve Bartro

Winding Hills Golf Club
Class B

John Meyer

Villa Roma Resort
Class C

New Baby!



Congratulations to Evan Weymouth from Patriot Hills and his wife Sally on the arrival of their bundle of joy! Ariana

Members on the Move

Reese Wasson

now at Osiris Country Club,
was at Spook Rock Golf Club

Brian Goudey

now at Atlantic Golf & Turf,
was with Syngenta

Upcoming Meetings

Sept 11th

Quaker Hill Country Club
September Meeting

October 3rd

Leewood Golf Club
Worthington Cup

October 10th

Sunningdale Country Club
Met Area Team
Championship

November 11th

Tailgate Party W/ MetGCSA
Buffalo Soldier Pavilion
West Point

BOARD OF DIRECTORS CORNER

Prepping for a Tournament



As August comes to an end, we are in the midst of the second half of summer. Here at the Villa Roma Resort Golf Course, we hosted our Annual Sullivan County Democrat Tournament. It's a three day, two man team (amateur) better ball format that attracts locals of all skill levels.

In preparation for the tournament, we usually start gearing up for it at least two weeks from the date. The weed whacking, bunker edging, tee tops, you know... the small detail work that makes the course look good for that first tee time.

This year however, it felt like the stars had aligned here at the Villa Roma. Sure, you must be thinking it can't be that good. It's never that good. And yes, you're right! There were a few hiccups along the way with broken equipment, smaller staff, and strange weather patterns. But the normal stress in preparing for this tournament didn't seem to be as high, there was less anxiety in the air. We were able to lower the height of cut on our greens earlier than expected without the stress of warm weather. Disease seemed to be at an all time low which is a plus, and the staff had stepped up their work ethic by keeping up on the daily routine work, while completing projects that had been way overdue. Everyone knew their role for this event. It seemed that the preparation work had taken care of itself.

While we do still have many of the year to year struggles that everyone faces, it seems that the club and staff are moving in the right direction. All we can do now is maintain what we've been doing and try to exceed our own expectations for the rest of the season.

Will O'Brien, GCS
Villa Roma

Nine & Dine at Rotella.....recap

After several attempts over the past few years, we finally got to have our meeting at Rotella and it turned out to be a FUN afternoon! Many thanks to Chris Dyroff, Scott Estey and their crew for hosting our event and having the course in excellent shape. All the staff were very accommodating. A big thanks to Sofia Dyroff and her friend for taking charge of the beverage cart...I hope they made a few bucks for their college fund.

At this event we like to recognize our scholarship recipients and this year we had 4 - Sofia Dyroff, Bea Halderman, Jake Wilber & Pierce Gurney. Sofia & Bea were in attendance and received their awards from HV President, Tim Walker. Guy Gurney accepted the award on behalf of his son Pierce. We also got to celebrate Kevin Collins Birthday, he's looking younger every day! The **Loudest Shirt Contest** went to Evan Weymouth...winner was determined by a round of applause.

Results: The format for the event was 4-person scramble. Lots of low scores were turned in.

Winning Team: Mike Weber, Steve Bartro, Andy Bulizak & Chris Marra (30)

Closest to Pin: Fred Slutsky

Closest to Line: Evan Weymouth





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2023 Scholarship Recipients

Congratulations to this year's HVGCSA Scholarship Recipients. Four Freshman heading off to College. What an exciting time in your life! We wish you every success & happiness in your future plans. Good luck with your studies!



Sofia Dyroff

School: St. Thomas Aquinas College

Major: Pending

HVGCSA Member:

Chris Dyroff, Philip Rotella GC



Bea Halderman

School: University of Vermont

Major: Music & Animal Science

HVGCSA Member:

Blake Halderman, Brae Burn CC



Pierce Gurney

School: SUNY Dehli

Major: Automotive Technologies

HVGCSA Member:

Guy Gurney, Storrs Tractor



Jake Wilber

School: SUNY New Paltz

Major: Education

HVGCSA Member:

Dan Wilber, Millbrook Golf & Tennis

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Quaker Hill CC to Host HV Sept Meeting.....cont'd

years. "When I started, I had the world to myself," Lowell once remarked, "Cronkite was nine, Brinkley was five, Reasoner was a two-year old. And the rest of them weren't even born."

Thomas and his wife Frances purchased their first house on Quaker Hill in 1926. Their home, known as "Cloverbrook" was a thirty-seven-room wood frame house on Quaker Hill Road. In 1936, to stave off developers who wanted to purchase and subdivide the 2000 acre French Estate on "The Hill", Lowell bought the property himself. While surveying the land one day on horseback, he came to a hilltop where one could see 40 miles in every direction. "What a spot for a golf course," Lowell exclaimed. Enlisting the help of young Architect Robert Trent Jones and golf legend and friend Gene Sarazen, work commenced. \$80,000 and one year later the course opened for play. The year was 1941.

Lowell Thomas passed away in 1981. He was a friend and confidant to numerous U.S. Presidents and world leaders. He was also a great friend to all who knew him. Lowell was very grounded, loved life, and enjoyed a good party. Long time Quaker Hill member Ross Nichols remembered throwing a Halloween party at his Pawling house. On October 30th, Lowell and his wife, in full costume and one day early, showed up at the Nichols home ready to party. Needless to say, Ross had two Halloween parties that year.

Quaker Hill CC



Upon completion of the golf course, Gene Sarazen remarked, "In time, Quaker Hill will be as fine as they come."

The layout hasn't changed much over the years. The greens complexes are the original designs that RTJ drew up in 1940, minus a trap or two.

The course plays to a par 70 and is a little over 6100 yards.

The greens are small and undulating and hard to hit. The fairways slope left to right and right to left and uphill and downhill to provide the golfer with every imaginable type of lie.

There's not a bad hole on the course and you'll never tire playing this little gem.

Even though Quaker is a 9-hole layout, RTJ's brilliance in locating and building the tees makes both nines play much differently.

Continued...page 20

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Quaker Hill CC to Host HVGCSA September Meeting.....cont'd

Gary Lattrell



Gary was born in Middlebury, VT. He was one of 10 children. "I was the oldest of the youngest and the youngest of the oldest," Gary laughed.

When Gary was 13 years old he left home for good settling in Webatuck NY, near Amenia, where he worked and lived on local farms throughout his teens while attending high school. "I got fed, clothed, and they gave you a few bucks too," Gary remembered.

After high school, Gary attended Dutchess Community College by day and worked in a feed mill by night. In 1973, Gary received some life-altering news. "I got drafted into the U.S. Army," Gary laughed, "The Vietnam War was still going on and there was still a draft. I didn't want to go into the Army so I enlisted in the Navy. Soon after the draft was eliminated so I didn't have to go anywhere."

In 1974, Gary went to work for Reardon Briggs, an outdoor power equipment company where he specialized in sharpening reel mowers. "Everybody cut with reel mowers back then," Gary pointed out, "so you'd have to say the reel mower industry got me into the turfgrass industry. I would attend 2 to 3 week schools at International Harvester, Ariens, Kohler, and Briggs & Stratton to name a few. I picked up a wealth of knowledge."

In 1978, Gary started working at QHCC part time for Superintendent Tony Matt. It was a crew of two. "Back then we mowed the entire course with gang mowers," Gary smiled, "You sat on a tractor all day."

In 1984, Gary joined Tony to work full time at the course. "I wanted to learn as much as possible. I completed the short course at UMass and attended Tufts University for more education."

In 1989, while cutting the grass around the clubhouse, Tony had a massive heart attack and died on the spot. Gary went looking for Tony that day and was the first to find him. It was Tony's express wish that Gary succeed him as golf course superintendent and that's how it happened.

Gary's original crew was his brother Lou and as he liked to call them, the two redheads, Tracy and Suzanne.

Since Gary took over, albeit a long and painful journey due to lack of funds, many improvements have been made at the course. In 1989, the irrigation system, powered by a 2HP submersible pump, could water one green at a time with no fairway irrigation. Over time Gary and his crew have upgraded the irrigation system to an "almost but not acceptable" state.

"Another big improvement was when we purchased our first fairway unit and over time we've upgraded our entire equipment fleet," Gary remarked, "Probably the most important agronomic change we made was topdressing the greens and aerating them as often as possible. We incorporated Drill & Fill, DryJect, and Deep Tine aeration in addition to core aeration. For greens that had zero internal drainage, it was a game changer."

Gary's crew includes his heir apparent and soon to be superintendent Andrew Carroll. Andrew has worked for Gary at Quaker for the last 14 years interrupted only by a 5-year stint in the Marines.

Assistant superintendent Robin Silvernail has worked for Gary since high school, got her turf degree at URI and, after a stint working at Salem Golf Club, returned to the crew a couple of years ago.

Robin's mom Kelly has also been a mainstay on the crew for many years.

Last but not least, Gary is assisted by his beautiful wife Ellen on the crew. Gary and Ellen met at Reardon Briggs and, to this day, are inseparable. They recently purchased a home in North Carolina where they plan to reside after retirement, close to their daughter Nicole and their grandchildren.

We'll see you on the 11th!!

Kevin Collins



Don't I look good in this shirt!
It's my Birthday!

HVGCSA September Meeting & Met Team Qualifier



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WESTCHESTER TURF SUPPLY



Quaker Hill Country Club

1013 Old Quaker Hill Road, Pawling, NY

Monday, September 11, 2023

- Host:** Kevin Collins
- 11:00** Registration
Lunch on Patio
- 12:30** Golf: Shotgun - Individual Stroke Play
****Handicaps required when registering****
- 5:30** Dinner, Cash Bar & Prizes
- Fee:** \$125 - Includes: Lunch, Golf, Dinner & Beer/Wine on Course.

Dress Code: Proper Golf Attire

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Is Golf in "Jeopardy?"cont'd

er use, as well as careless use of toxic pesticides. All of these practices contribute to concerns about water quality. Most people, both inside and outside the golf industry, believe that this is a fair concern. You might think that it's not a big deal because nobody has ever mentioned these issues to you before, so you continue doing things your way. However, there may come a day when lawmakers tell you that you can no longer continue doing things your way, and instead, you must follow their regulations. The problem is that these regulations are determined by people who have no knowledge or interest in properly maintaining a golf course.

While it may seem like the battle between golf and lawmakers/environmentalists doesn't directly affect you or your career, it is important for golf courses to communicate their value to local communities. To do this effectively, golf courses must proactively adopt Best Management Practices (BMPs) to protect the environment and ensure the sustainability of the game. BMPs are essential for responsible golf course management. They encompass various tasks such as proper irrigation management, implementing fertilization programs, water conservation, appropriate pesticide application, soil health management, and using accurate turfgrass selection data. All of these practices contribute to the protection of water quality and wildlife habitat. By adopting and implementing Best Management Practices, golf courses can ensure that their course is managed in a sustainable and environmentally friendly manner, while producing exceptional turfgrass conditions. Additionally, BMPs are cost-effective as they reduce long-term maintenance and environmental expenses. In conclusion, the implementation of BMPs is the most significant advancement in golf. These practices are crucial for ensuring the game's sustainability and protecting the environment. If your facility has not already formally adopted BMPs, the only question that remains is, why not? And there is no good answer to that question.

Ken Benoit is Executive Director of the New York Golf Course Foundation