

FOREGROUND

VOL. 60 NO. 3 Published by Hudson Valley Golf Course Superintendents Association June 2023

*TOWN OF WALLKILL GOLF CLUB
TO HOST
JUNE MEETING*



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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



It's hard to believe we are in the middle of June already and 4th of July is less than 3 weeks away. This season is picking right up where last summer left off. Very dry and the haves and have nots as far as who got some relief in the way of rain. We have been in the group that has not received rainfall. One inch May 20th was the last measurable rain... The turf is still confused as to what to do, sod is slow to

knit and aerification holes are lurking.

It was great to see so many in attendance at Mahopac Golf Club for our Hudson Valley Cup in May. Big thank you to Jon Ferruccio for hosting. I'm certain everyone will agree it was a treat to play. I was able to keep all of my putts on the green this time...I must say he presented the course in excellent condition. Now we turn our heads to Wallkill Golf Club where Jay Werbalowsky will be sure to give us a great day in the Hudson Valley.

Make sure to mark your calendars for our Winter Seminar and Annual Meeting to be held again at Resorts World in Monticello Wednesday, January 17th. The committee is busy setting up a great day of education.

We have had a hectic start of the season, and I know many are already looking forward to the leaves falling and getting ready for winter... We will see you all in a few days at Wallkill.

All the best,

Tim

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Town of Wallkill Golf Club and Jay Werbalowsky to host HVGCSA June Meeting

By: Kevin Collins

On Tuesday June 20th, Superintendent Jay Werbalowsky and the Town of Wallkill Golf Club welcome the HVGCSA to Middletown, NY to play some golf and hoist a few libations. Jay is looking forward to showing off the course to his friends and colleagues. It's been a while since the association held a meeting at Wallkill. It's a tough layout that you have to take great care navigating.

About Jay



Jay was born in Poughkeepsie, NY in 1973. His professional story is about perseverance and grit and stick-to-itiveness. And it ended well.

Jay's introduction into the world of golf course management occurred when he was a young teenager.

Jay's mom Patricia and dad Louis had split up when Jay was a youngster. Patricia remarried and her new husband and Jay's new stepdad was Tom Lambert, superintendent of The Country Club at Otterkill. The rest was almost predictable.

"I worked at Otterkill every summer from the time I was 13 through my first couple years of college," Jay said, "and after that I transferred to URI to get my turf degree."

Jay's first internship was with Tim O'Neill at Darien CC. Soon after, Jay returned briefly to Otterkill as Tom's assistant. He got married and moved down to Maryland's Eastern Shore to work as an assistant for Harlyn Goldsman at Great Hope CC, a stint that lasted close to three years.

Necessitated by an illness in his wife's family, Jay moved back to NY where he secured an assistant's position at The Golf Club at Mansion Ridge. That gig lasted for three

seasons before Jay packed up and went to work for Rick Evans at Wallkill.

"Rick was my greatest mentor," Jay fondly recalled, "he bled green and was the epitome of a turf guru. He knew so much about turf and if he didn't know, he'd find out. If it wasn't for Rick I would have gotten out of the business."

In 2007, Jay returned to Otterkill for his first superintendent's position and remained there for 10 years.

Next stop was Orange County working as the superintendent at Hickory Hill Golf Course. You would figure that Jay had at last found his place. Working for Orange County and turf legend Rob Bressler had to be a keeper. This was the short period of time when Jay wasn't a member of the HVGCSA. I even started a "Go Fund Me" page to get him and Rob back into the association. Alas, Hickory Hill wasn't the best fit for Jay so he moved on briefly to Winding Hills GC and soon after, to Wallkill, replacing Rick Evans. Jay had found his place.

Billy Casper Golf was managing Wallkill at the time. "My very first day working for Wallkill I was at Newark Airport heading down to Florida for the yearly gathering of superintendents from around the country," Jay laughed, "it was a whirlwind experience starting off to say the least. I'm only the second superintendent ever at Wallkill. Rick grew it in and was there 29 years before he retired."

Jay wanted to give some props to the key people he works with. His assistant and mechanic Matt Bennett is, as Jay describes it, "the yang to my yin." Simply stated, Matt is always calm, cool, and collected, a true foil to Jay's more excitable demeanor.

Continued.....page 16



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HUDSON VALLEY CUP RECAP.....



Vinny Mulvihill, Blake Halderman, Scott Tretera & Dave Dudones

TEAM HARRELL'S BRINGS HOME THE CUP

Our Hudson Valley Cup Fundraiser at Mahopac Golf Club on May 22nd turned out to be a great day for all. Many thanks to all members & guests that participated in helping us raise funds for our Turf Research & Scholarships. Jon and his crew had the course in spectacular shape for all to challenge and enjoy. A big thanks to the GM, Tim Clinton and all the staff who went above and beyond to make our day a memorable one.

Some great golf was had by some. That definitely didn't include myself. Congrats to our winners! We had 3 teams that tied for low gross (71). Team Harrell's, Team Beekman & Team Fisher & Son. Since Team Harrell's also had low net (56), they won the Cup. There was a match of cards (back nine) for the other 2 teams and Team Beekman came out on top.

Here are the results

HV Cup Winner : Low Net (56)

Team Harrell's (enjoy the cup for a year)

Scott Tretera, Blake Halderman, Dave Dudones & Vinny Mulvihill

Low Gross Winner: (match of cards)

Team Beekman (71)

Steve Spontak, Alex Tanea, Brandon Marks & Clark Angevine

Closest to Pin: Hole 12 (20' 8")

Nick Baczkowski (putt made for birdie)

Closest to Pin: Hole 8 (2' 9")

Chris Dyroff (doubtful putt was made)

Long Drive: Hole 18

Rich Neufeld

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I look forward to seeing everyone at Walkkill Golf Club on June 20th.

Cheers,

Matt Topazio



Chris Marra, Tim Garceau & Scott Gallop



HVGCSA June Meeting & Met Team Qualifier



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Town of Wallkill Golf Club

40 Sands Road, Middletown, NY

Tuesday, June 20, 2023

Host: Jay Werbalowsky

8:00 Registration (Continental Breakfast)

9:00 Golf: Shotgun
Handicaps required when registering

2:30 Lunch: BBQ, Cash Bar & Prizes

Fee: \$90.00 per person (breakfast, golf & lunch)
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Hudson Valley News of Interest:

By: Kevin Collins



*Retired HVGCSA member and former Spook Rock superintendent Dan Madar has become a “barbecue pit master” aficionado in his golden years. He’s seen here slicing up some smoked chicken breast as only he can make it. The next picture (not included) was Dan slicing off the end of his index finger. We wish Dan a speedy recovery.



*Patriot superintendent Evan Weymouth has been busy putting baby furniture together at the house. Brady was out of the cage since Sally wasn’t home. If Brady gets any

larger he won’t fit in the cage.



*Here’s Powelton Club superintendent Mike Aube keeping the sod alive and kicking during this crazy dry period. Mike and the crew used a new technique to place the sod. They got hammered

(piss drunk) prior to the installation. I think it’s a good look.



Artic Wolf Trailer/Campsite for rent. **Location:** Southern Dutchess GC, Beacon, NY (behind 3rd green) **Square Footage:** 450 **Amenities:** Crappy outdoor furniture, grill (that won’t light), kerosene fire pit (kind of toxic), kitchen, bed, TV (gets one channel), golf cart (needs two tires). **Rent:** \$1,500/mo. Call Jeff Newell Realty (845) 590-5644



*Here’s a great picture of retired Rotella superintendent Cal Fowx and his dog the last time they got high together.



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Host: Chris Dyroff

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Due by September 30, 2023
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.

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- ◇ \$200 spending allowance

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DAY



Wishing all our
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Happy Father's Day.

*"Any man can be a father
but it takes someone
special to be a Dad"*

Anne Geddes.

*Hug your kids!
They need your love &
understanding more than ever.*

Upcoming Meetings

June 20th

Town of Wallkill Golf Club

June Meeting
(Met Team Qualifier)

July 19th

Philip Rotella Memorial GC

Nine & Dine

August 15th

Wiltwyck CC

NYSTA Challenge

Sept 11th

Quaker Hill CC

September Meeting

October 3rd

Leewood Golf Club

Worthington Cup

BOARD OF DIRECTORS CORNER



Summer Solstice: I was talking to a neighbor at the course the other day and we realized that the Fourth of July is only two and a half weeks away. I consider the Fourth half way through the golf season. But the true midpoint of the season is June 21st. The summer solstice is when the earth's axis is tilted closest to the sun resulting in the longest day of the year.

Throughout history, the summer equinox has been celebrated by many civilizations, often with ancient rituals and traditions. In many cultures it is a time of joy and abundance, as the bountiful sunlight allows crops to flourish and nature to thrive. Hopefully we all can experience the happy medium between sunlight and moisture to allow us to celebrate our flourishing crops.

As long and hard as our days are, take the time to enjoy the beauty of the summer solstice. Make the most of the sun's warmth and energy. Because soon the days will gradually become shorter and cooler, and we will be complaining about snow removal.

Ben Babbage





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Wallkill Golf Club & Jay Werbalowsky...cont'd

Troon (Indigo Golf) is now managing the course. The GM, Pat Hentze, and Jay have a great relationship and work very well as a team, which means they stay out of each other's way and collaborate to run a tight ship.

Wallkill

The Wallkill golf course was built in the early nineties and opened for play in May of 1992. Designed by Architect Steve Esposito, the course winds its way around a large lagoon and meanders through wooded areas lined with hemlocks, oaks, and shag bark hickory trees. The layout is very challenging with water coming into play on 1, 2, 17, and 18 with some interesting doglegs, both left and right. Wallkill is definitely a shot maker type of course, not a lot of room for error.

The course plays 6,437 yards from the back tees, 6104 from the middle, and 5171 from the forward tees.

Jay mentioned that the course has some novel design features. "Many of the greens slope from front to back or side to side," Jay stated, "a lot of people who've played here wonder if they're playing the course backwards." It seems like Steve Esposito was a fan of Redan-type greens, an archetypal design incorporated into many of the older classic courses designed by European architects like C.B. Macdonald and Seth Raynor.

Well, there it is. We'll see you on the 20th.

Kevin Collins

Peter Waterous, 53, a lifelong resident of the Hudson Valley, passed away.



It saddens me to have to inform you that Peter Waterous passed away on May 22nd. 2023. Peter was a lifelong resident of the Hudson Valley and a past MetGCSA member. He worked for over 30 years, starting as the assistant superintendent then becoming Superintendent at Westchester Hills G.C. in White Plains. He then moved on to work at Southern Dutchess C.C. in Beacon and was working at Beekman Golf Club in Hopewell Junction.

Pete leaves behind his wife Marie and his two daughters Danielle and Julia. Peter's father Herb Waterous was a Superintendent at Scarsdale CC. for many years and is now a class AF Life member of the MetGCSA.

Golf was in Peter's blood and was my assistant when he first started at Westchester Hills. Thinking back on those days, Peter made my life easier and the job more fun. He was a dedicated professional with a great personality. A calming influence on me as I was not much older and probably too strong headed. Thanks for your help and the fond memories Pete. May you rest in peace.

Matt Ceplo

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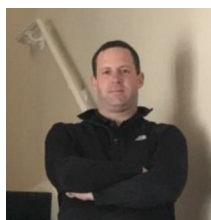
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Wiltwyck Golf Club

Tuesday, August 15, 2023

On Tuesday, August 15th, Wiltwyck Golf Club and Superintendent Jason Nalepa will host this year's NYSTA Challenge co-hosted by HVGCSA.



In 2000, Jason began working on the maintenance crew at Wiltwyck for Paul Pritchard. In the fall of 2001, with Paul's urging, Jason signed up for the turf program at SUNY Delhi.

In 2004, Jason began working full time at the course and soon moved into the role of 2nd assistant. In 2016 with the club struggling financially, Paul was let go and Jason was asked to move into the role of superintendent, which he refused. The club miraculously stayed open and, in 2017, Ben Babbage was hired as superintendent. Jason stayed on as Ben's 1st assistant.

At the end of 2017, Wiltwyck, in receivership with a local bank, decided to close its doors. Ben moved on and Jason was left to ponder his future. Miraculously, WGC Holdings, a buying group which included 12 Wiltwyck members, stepped in and bought the property from the bank.

Architect Brian Silva was retained in 2022 to develop a master plan for the golf course. "When Brian first walked the course, he said he wouldn't take the job unless extensive tree removal was a priority. Mother nature took care of about ½ of the job from a major ice storm on February 4, 2022. The inch of ice mangled over 200 trees. They were beyond saving. A crew of 15 took almost a month to remove the trees. It really opened up the course."

The Course

In 1933, a local group of working men culminated two years of discussion by forming a golf club. They named it "Wiltwyck," Dutch for "wild refuge," the name given to the area by Dutch Governor Peter Stuyvesant nearly 300 years earlier.

The new club purchased an estate on the western outskirts of Kingston. Construction of a nine-hole course began in late 1933 and the course opened for play in 1934. In the early 1950's, the NYS Thruway was routed through the heart of the course so the move was made to a 140-acre farm half a mile south from the original site. Robert Trent Jones Sr. was hired to build an 18-hole championship course which was ready to play in 1956.

Wiltwyck is a parkland course complete with numerous severe elevation changes and water in play on four holes. The greens are small and well bunkered. Like all RTJ's courses, Wiltwyck has great bones. It plays 6850 yards from the championship tees.

[Registration Information Coming Soon!](#)

***Revised article - Kevin Collins 4/2022*



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