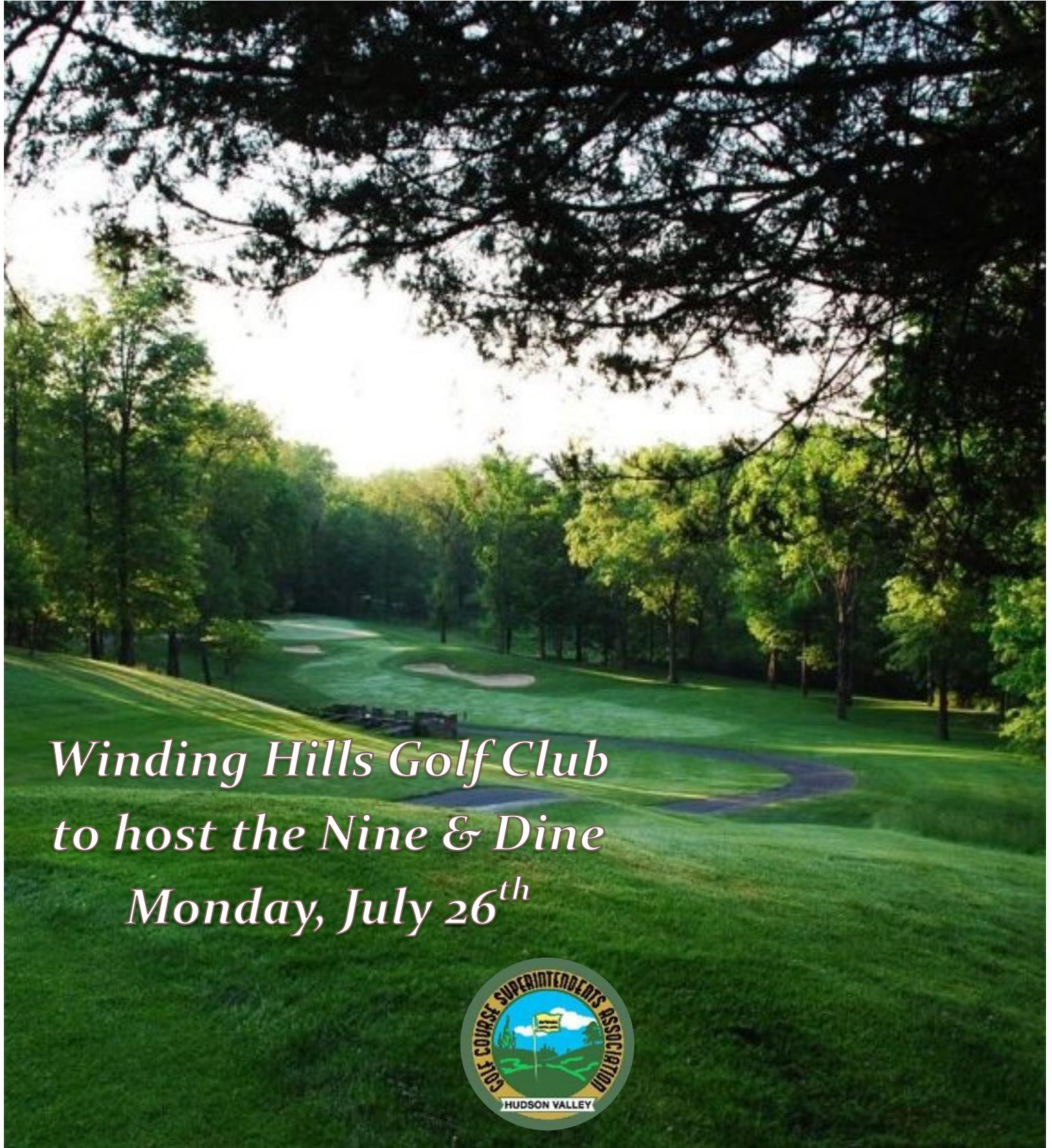


FOREGROUND

VOL. 58 NO. 3 Published by Hudson Valley Golf Course Superintendents Association July 2021



*Winding Hills Golf Club
to host the Nine & Dine
Monday, July 26th*



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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.



Winding Hills Golf Club

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President's Message



I would like to begin by thanking Kevin Collins for hosting our last meeting at Quaker Hill. The superintendent, Gary Lattrell and his staff had the golf course in amazing shape. The restaurant and their staff did a great job with the food. Thank you all for coming out and supporting the association.

Our next event, the Nine & Dine is right around the corner on Monday, July 26th at Winding Hills, hosted by John Garger. This will be my first time playing this executive course, so I'm looking forward to it. Come and join us! Family & friends are welcome.

Rain...rain go away or should I say flooding...flooding go away. I'm sure most of you at this point want to throw the rain gauge in the trash. I'm definitely tired of looking at it. Although, one positive thing is my rough has never been thicker. After listening to the golfers over the years complain about the rough being too thin it's a nice change to see them hacking the ball and I'm sure some swearing is going on too. I have to admit, I do enjoy seeing them struggle...it adds some entertainment to my day.

Well, I hope you guys are hanging in there and don't forget to vent those greens.

See you all soon,

Chris Kemble

THE BIG TICKET GIS Giveaway

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, 2021
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
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The Struggles Mother Nature Has Dealt Us This Year.....

By: Kevin Doyle, Northeast GCSAA Rep

What a long, strange trip 2021 has been. This is the time of year when the job board should be filled with double-cuts and multiple rolls followed by fans, hoses, and syringing. Instead, pumping bunkers and flood rebuild seems like a daily task. The tines getting replaced are the venting variety on the aerator, not the moisture meter. I wanted to see if there were any educational or academic resources that could be referenced to assist in the aftermath of a summer season that was cool, historically wet with minimal sunshine for weeks on end, but I couldn't really find any? I was looking to highlight changes we might see agronomically as we transition into late summer early fall. For our academics giving the newsletter a read.... consider this a hint! I did want to mention a few items including some I found when scrolling the hundreds of search mishits.

Communication will play a critical piece moving forward. Whether it is with your owner, board, or internal decision maker, be sure to take pictures and document the struggles Mother Nature has dealt you this year. Increase in disease pressure, decrease in efficient mowing practices, labor intensive flood mitigation, and many more wet-weather related outcomes can negatively affect your budget. Superintendents do an amazing job of making these struggles appear as they never happened. Be sure to photograph and document for those with short memories.

The weird weather pattern of today will overshadow the strange temperature swings of the spring. It does not mean the timing difficulties of preventative practices for insect and weed control won't rear their ugly heads. In-season curative measures that are more aggressive than usual may be needed as a result. Be sure to accurately document and communicate the challenges posed and

hopefully successes your programs provided.

Working in the rain is not fun. Rebuilding bunkers is not fun. Clearing storm and flood debris is not fun. Hand mowing acres of turf due to wet conditions is not fun. Having to do each of these multiple times a week can be demoralizing. Managing the staff who are facing these challenges with you is not the normal grind of the summer season. Think of outside the box opportunities to add a sip of sunshine to their work week to keep your staff both physically and mentally healthy.

Summer in the Northeast is almost always a war of attrition and full of surprises. Being reactive to conditions that are not the norm and excelling in the face of adversity is a specialty of golf course superintendents and their staffs. Communicating these challenges and successes are often not priorities during challenging times but can become critical down the road.

If you need assistance developing or improving a communication strategy, GCSAA has you covered! Check out the resources area for information to help: <https://www.gcsaa.org/resources/research-information/secure/communication>





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Winding Hills Golf Club to Host Nine & Dine

On Monday July 26th, Winding Hills and Superintendent John Garger will host the HVGCSA's July meeting. This will be a unique event. Winding Hills is an Executive Golf Course. That means our Hudson Valley brotherhood will get to play an interesting layout with lots of short holes. So, keep those drivers in the bag!

The Course:

Winding Hills was built in the late 1990's. It is modeled after Geoffrey Cornish's Blue Rock GC at Yarmouth, MA in Cape Cod. The layout features fifteen par 3 and three par 4 holes and plays 2595 yards in total. The course is semi-private and open to the public. The owners have been developing the property and building houses so if you buy a house there, you're a member. The course is a lot of fun to play. Don't go there and think that it'll be



a breeze. There's a lot of trouble bordering each hole so if you don't hit it straight you could be in trouble. If you plan on imbibing while you play, bring a couple of sleeves of golf balls. You'll need them.



Our Host:

John grew up in Hummelstown, PA, not far from Harrisburg. He got into golf at a young age, 5 years old to be exact. And he played competitive golf, sporting a 3 handicap.

"I moved to Georgia and was an on the road salesman in the automotive repair industry," John reminisced, "I wasn't enjoying what I was doing. I loved golf and golf courses and decided to go to school to learn the maintenance end of the business. I took the courses at the University of Georgia and was on my way."

John got a job working in Hilton Head, SC at the Long Cove Club to gain experience. "I decided to move north and enrolled at Rutgers in the two-year program. After school, I was hired as an assistant at Shore Gate CC in Ocean View, NJ. Six months into the job the club fired the superintendent and offered me the job."

John's tenure at Shore Gate lasted 10 years. He left and moved on to Galloway National for a year. He was contacted by the management company, "applied golf" and was offered the position of superintendent at Putnam National Golf Course in Mahopac, NY. John stayed there for five years. And the course conditions he provided were stellar.

"About a year and a half ago I took the position at Winding Hills. It was a lateral move but it simplified my life. It's a lot less property to take care of and unlike Putnam, it drains well." John laughed.

On a personal note, John resides in Cold Spring on the Hudson River. It's a very cool town to live in if you're a bachelor. John still has a house on the Jersey shore which he rents out.

So, we'll see you at Winding Hills on the 26th. It should be a blast.

Kevin Collins



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Hudson Valley News of Interest:

By: Kevin Collins



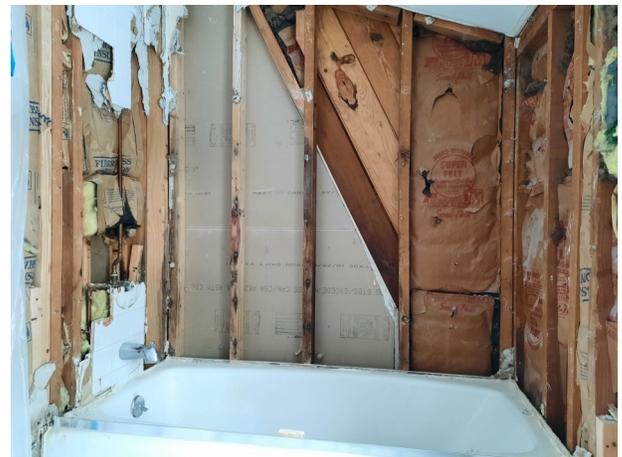
*Here's a great picture of Tim Garceau at the June meeting at QHCC. Tim, a generous soul, noticed that the cheese & cracker platter only had one cracker left so he pulled out his wallet and ordered two sleeves of crackers and some cheddar cheese slices to keep the party going. The moth that flew out of his wallet was quickly subdued and didn't harm any of the staff.



*Here's another great picture of Tim at the Quaker Hill meeting. He had thought he dropped his bag of weed in the bunker so I thought I'd help him find it.



*Former Rotella superintendent Cal Fowx (aka Cal Corleone) has started his own crime family in Florida. His new venture specializes in loan sharking, murder for hire, extortion, gambling, and wire fraud. His corporate hierarchy includes Stu "Stu Bananas" Sharples as Underboss and Bill "The Rug" Luthin as Consigliere'.



*Susan O'Dowd's new bathroom is still not finished so her and her husband have decided to turn it into combination sitting room/library until the tub, bidet and toilet are delivered. They are currently on a container ship stranded in Shanghai, China.



*Salvatrice DiFresco, Evan Weymouth's fiancé, fired a shot over his bow recently on social media. Fed up by his inattentiveness, she sent a strong message to Evan and his dog Brady that enough was enough. No word yet on the status of the wedding.



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**Chris Strehl & Links at Union Vale
to host
August Meeting & NYSTA Challenge**

Monday, August 16, 2021

Times:

10:30 Registration

11:00 - 12:15 Lunch

12:30 Shotgun Start - 4-Man Handicap Scramble
Spikeless shoes required - Proper golf attire

5:00 - 6:00 Buffet Dinner, Prizes & Raffle Drawings

Tournament Fee: \$150 per person / \$50 Dinner Only

Click [HERE](#) to Register with NYSTA
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(Registration Deadline: August 9th)

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June Meeting at Quaker Hill CC....Recap

As I headed up the Taconic in the pouring rain on June 14th, I wasn't feeling too positive about our June meeting taking place that day. Once I turned into the parking lot at Quaker Hill Country Club and all I could see was pickup trucks and people standing around talking then I knew this meeting was definitely on rain or shine. Almost everyone showed up and it turned out to be a FUN day! The rain did stop just before we teed off. I had the pleasure of playing with Ryan Avery, George Corgan and our newest member Scott Gallup from Saratoga Sod Farm.



Our host Kevin Collins was the star of the show. Although, if you ask Kevin, he would say all the accolades should go to Gary the superintendent. Considering all the rain we had that morning the course was in great condition. Everything about the course, clubhouse, food & staff was top notch. It really is a hidden gem!

Our format for the day was scramble, and we had some great scores. Congratulations to all our winners! There were 4 teams that turned in a score of 61. So, the winner was decided by a match of cards.

Results:

1st Place: Dave Lippman, Bob Lippman, Steve Whipple & Doug Heddrick (61) (match of cards)

2nd Place: Greg Moran, Zach Axtell, Ben Babbage & John Garger (61) (match of cards)

Honorable mention:

Jason Werbalowsky, Brian O'Malley, Mike Weber & Rob Johnson (61)

Brian Bontemps, Brian Gjelsvik, Dan Wilber & Brian Kelly (61)

3 Closet to Pin: Jason Werbalowsky, Brian Bontemps & Brian O'Malley

Longest Drive: Tyler Warren

I would like to thank Kevin Collins & Quaker Hill Country Club for hosting our event and to our sponsors for their continued support.

Susan O'Dowd



June Meeting at Quaker Hill CC



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GCSAA Resources and Deadlines

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ChAPPter Challenge

Help your GCSAA-affiliated chapter win \$500 by downloading the GCSAA Now Mobile App. There are two ways for a chapter to win:

- Most chapter member who have downloaded the GCSAA app
- Highest percentage of the chapter membership who have downloaded the GCSAA app. The contest runs May 4-July 31, 2021.

AUGUST 13: GCSAA Golf Championships registration opens

The [JW Marriott Desert Springs Resort & Spa](#) will be the host resort, with play taking place on its Valley Course. Other courses welcoming golfers over the two days of events are the [Desert Willow Golf Resort's](#) Mountain View Course and the [Indian Wells Golf Resort's](#) Celebrity Course.

The GCSAA National Championship is limited to 72 GCSAA members with a 5.0 handicap index or lower and will be played over two days. The two-day Golf Classic is limited to 120 players and will use a point-quota scoring system, with flights to be determined at a later date. Finally, the three-person team scramble fun event will be limited to the first 36 teams, or 108 players.

Watch GCSAA.org for details.

UPCOMING WEBINARS

[Large Patch and Spring Dead Spot: The Latest Recommendations for Effective Management](#) presented by Syngenta Aug. 4 @ 10 a.m.

[Today's Turf is ... Ultradwarf Bermuda](#) Aug. 12 @ 10 a.m.

[Today's Turf is ... Kentucky Bluegrass](#)
Aug. 19 @ 10 a.m. Leah Brilman, Ph.D.

[Today's Turf is ... Bluemuda](#)
Aug. 26 @ 10 a.m. Gregg Munshaw, Ph.D.

[ABW: Reaching Optimal Control](#) presented by Syngenta
Sept. 14 @ 10 a.m. Michael Agnew, Ph.D., Matt Giese and Lane Tredway, Ph.D.

[A Look at Drug Misuse and Knowing the Signs](#)
Sept. 16 @ 2 p.m. Joe Abdalla and Mark O'Brien

[Today's Turf is ... Poa](#) Sept. 30 @ 10 a.m. Steve McDonald

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

Kevin Doyle, GCSAA Field Staff

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Upcoming Meetings

**July Meeting
& Dine**
Winding Hills GC
July 26, 2021

**August Meeting
NYSTA Challenge**
Links at Union Vale
August 16, 2021

**September Meeting
& Met Team Qualifier**
Spook Rock GC
September 13, 2021

**October Meeting
& Worthington Cup**
McCann Memorial GC
October 4, 2021

**Met Team
Championship**
Saratoga National GC
October 12, 2021

HVGCSA Nine and Dine



Winding Hills Golf Club

Host: John Garger

Monday July 26, 2021

This is an Executive Golf Course—we will be playing 18-Holes

\$60

Price Includes:
18-Holes, Cart, Food & Prizes

Registration: 3:15pm

Shotgun start: 4:00pm

[Click HERE to Register](#)



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