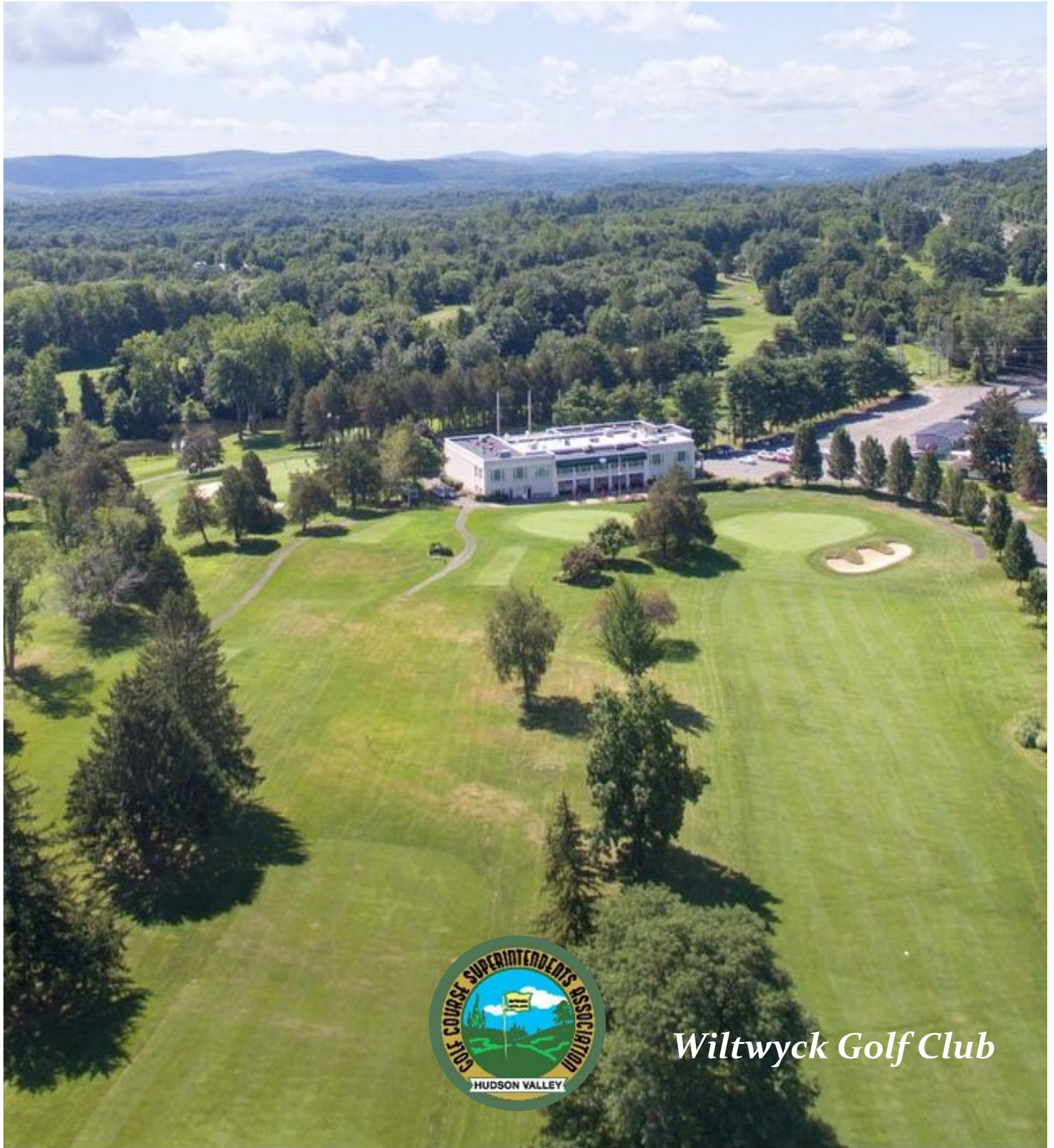


FOREGROUND

VOL. 61 NO. 3 Published by Hudson Valley Golf Course Superintendents Association June 2024



Wiltwyck Golf Club

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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



Break out the hoses, summer is certainly upon us now. The current heat wave is testing our irrigation systems, agronomic plans, and staff resolve. Hopefully, the current weather will break soon and with any luck the rest of the summer will be kinder to us.

We had a good turn out and an even better day for the Hudson Valley Cup last month at Bedford Golf and Tennis Club. Bob Nielsen had the golf course in excellent shape and the club staff did an excellent job planning and executing the entire day. The course was a joy to play, and the kitchen staff made sure we were all well fed throughout the day.

Our next meeting will be June 26th at Wiltwyck Golf Club hosted by Jason Nalepa. This meeting also serves as our first Met Team Qualifier for those interested in playing in the event this coming October. I hope to see many of you (or all!) up at Wiltwyck this coming week.

As a board, we have recently discussed various golf meeting formats and ideas. We would like to set up our events such that everyone is interested and wanting to attend. If anyone has suggestions about formats, start times, locations, or any other aspects of our meetings, please contact a board member or me. We would like our events to reflect the interests of the entire membership.

With all that said, I'll hop back on a hose! Good luck to everyone this summer!

Reese Wasson

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Wiltwyck Golf Club to Host June Meeting & Met Team Qualifier

By: Kevin Collins

On Wednesday, June 26th, Wiltwyck Golf Club and Superintendent Jason Nalepa will host the HVGCSA's June meeting and qualifier for this year's Met Team Championship. It is the third golf meeting of 2024 and we are looking forward to a huge turnout. It will also be a great opportunity to support Wiltwyck GC. The club's comeback is truly a testament to the resiliency of the members who purchased the property and just refused to let it fail.

The Town

Wiltwyck's home town, Kingston, has a long and storied history. Originally, the town was named Esopus after a local Indian tribe. It was one of the original Dutch settlements in New Netherland, the others being Beverwyck and Manhattan Island. In 1777, Kingston became the first capital of New York State. During the Revolutionary War, the city was torched by British troops moving up the Hudson River from New York City. Kingston was home to a major granary that supplied grain to the colonies. The British burned the entire city to the ground along with large stores of wheat. For the life of me, I can't figure out how one would burn wheat but obviously, the British were good at it. During the 1800's Kingston

was a hub for the production of bluestone and cement, having both cement deposits and the native river sand used in the production of bluestone. Other industries prevalent at that time were ice harvesting from the Hudson and numerous brick making factories. Alas, none of those industries survived to the present day. But, thankfully, there are still a lot of great watering holes down on the banks of Rondout Creek.

The Course

In 1933, a group of local businessmen 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

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Winding Hills GC To Host the HVGCSA's July Meeting



On Monday July 22nd, Winding Hills and Superintendent Steve Bartro will host the HVGCSA's July meeting. This will be a unique event. It's a Nine & Dine but you'll be playing 18 holes. Go figure. 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:



Our host, Steve Bartro, was born in Morristown, NJ. And he's moved more than any man on the planet. Steve is our modern-day Jack Kerouac, author of "On the Road". "I've moved more than 40 times in my short life," Steve laughed, "my parents got divorced when I was a

young guy. I've lived in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, New York, Florida, Nevada, and California. I know I left a few states out. I went to four different high schools. I know a lot of people from a lot of different places."

Steve's first foray into the world of golf course maintenance was at River Bend Golf Club in Ormond Beach, FL. "I was 19 when I started," Steve said, "It was just a job on the crew but I learned all the basics."

Two years later, Steve began work at Redwood Canyon GC in Castro Valley, CA. "I was at Redwood Canyon for 8 years," Steve said, "within a year I was the first assistant. I might as well have been the superintendent. My boss had substance abuse issues and wasn't very reliable. So, I had to cover for him a lot. I really learned my craft working there. The only thing we didn't do there was spray. It was an Audubon Sanctuary." There was a happy ending to this story. His boss got treatment and is currently working in the business as a superintendent.

In 2020, Steve moved on as an assistant to Glenbrook Golf Club in Glenbrook, NV. Glenbrook is a high-end private club in the Lake Tahoe area. Steve was only there for a season.

In 2021, Steve took over the reins at Winding Hills. This is his 4th year managing the club.

Steve lives in Walden, NY with his partner Rochelle. They met in middle school in Port Jervis. They have four children, daughter Brehanna-15, son Cody-7, daughter Bella-4, and son Levi-3. Sounds like Steve has put roots down and won't have to move for the 41st time, at least not in the near future.

Winding Hills is a blast to play. Come support Steve and the association. We'll see you there.

Kevin Collins

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FIRST GREEN 2024 @ MILLBROOK G&T

By Dan Wilber, Millbrook Golf & Tennis Club

Our 3rd annual First Green field trip was a bit 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! Sixty 3rd grade students from Alden Place Elementary School enjoyed around three hours of fun and learning on the morning of May 16th.

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. Greg Moran being one of our volunteers was very impressed with one young man sharing his knowledge of agronomy 101.

I'd like to thank our industry (and local) volunteers, that without them, this day does not happen:

Greg Moran
Jason Werbalowksy
Ryan Avery (has been to each event we've had)
Andy Eick
Dave Lippman
Tony Debonis
Our staff at MGT (Brian Kelly, Jake Wilber, and Sam Kelly)



received from the school 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.

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 re-



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Hudson Valley News of Interest!

By: Kevin Collins



Hawthorn Super Tim Garceau is shown here teeing off at a recent association event. According to his 2-Ball Partner Matt Topazio, Tim's game has gotten so bad that he is now averaging one shank every 3.6 swings. Matt said if you placed a barn directly in front of the tee, Tim would miss it, with a shank. Matt doesn't even call Tim by his Christian name anymore. He refers to Tim as "Dr. Shankapotamus". A little too harsh, in my humble opinion.



MetGCSA 2-Ball Champs Evan Weymouth and Todd Appgar are pictured after receiving their 2nd Flight Championship Trophies. The trophies themselves are truly a work of art. Carved from a broken gin bottle and etched with a file from a toenail clipper, these beauties would look great on any mantle or you could take them into a bar and cut a brother up. Well played guys.



GCSAA Rep Kevin Doyle had his hands full at this year's Canadian Open. They just about worked Kevin to death. In addition to squeegee duties, Kevin had to fluff the rough on 18 holes twice a day for 7 days. On top of that, Kevin had to pick up 130 breakfast sandwiches each day after his morning shift at a local deli to feed the tournament volunteer staff. And, since Kevin was a first-time volunteer at the "Open", he was forced to learn the Canadian National Anthem, "Oh Canada", and perform it at the tournament's Saturday night talent show. And he flubbed the song so they made him do it twice.

Oy Vey!!

EQUIPMENT MONTHLY MAY 2024

I am hoping that your spring is off to a good start, even with all the challenging rain events. I just wanted to let you know the Storr Tractor team members are always here to support you. I, of course, am always willing to help you with the details of a possible purchase, but I really want you to know that, with a lengthy career in golf and a B.S. in Agronomy with a concentration in Turfgrass, I am here to help you as a consultant as well.



Guy Gurney | [908.413.5640](tel:908.413.5640)
ggurney@storrtractor.com

Kudos to Storr Tractor for this excellent marketing piece featuring the HVGCSA's very own Guy Gurney. Guy's picture on the advertisement was taken at the Putnam County Jail last winter at the start of a 30-day stretch he served for throwing a possum into a wood chipper. Despite many counseling sessions, Guy still doesn't like critters.



Millbrook Super Dan Wilber told his summer intern Charles a week prior that if he showed up late for work again he'd "be digging his own grave." Guess who showed up late again?



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HVGCSA June Meeting & Met Team Qualifier



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Wiltwyck Golf Club

404 Steward Lane, Kingston, NY
Wednesday, June 26, 2024

Host: Jason Nalepa

9:00 Registration (*Continental Breakfast*)

10:00 Golf: Shotgun - **Format:** 4-Man Best Ball
****Handicaps required when registering****

11:30 BBQ Lunch on the turn (Patio)

3:00 Dinner, Open Bar & Prizes

Fee: \$110 - (*Breakfast, Lunch, Golf, Dinner & Open Bar*)
\$ 50 - (*Dinner/Open Bar only*)

Dress Code: Proper Golf Attire

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Criteria:

1. 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

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Wiltwyck To Host June Meeting...cont'd

hired to build an 18-hole championship course which was ready to play in 1956.

Wiltwyck is a parkland course complete with numerous 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.

Our Host

Our host, Jason Nalepa, was born and raised in Kingston. 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. "I attended Delhi from 2001-2004", and I commuted from Kingston which was an hour and twenty minutes each way", Jason laughed, "that enabled me to keep working part time at the course." In 2004, Jason received his associate's degree.

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.

Towards the end of the 2017 season, 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.

"Six managing members from WGC Holdings make all the decisions at the course," Jason reported, "all of the department heads report directly to the managing members. We meet face-to-face once a month. WGC has invested a lot of money into the property. There were clubhouse improvements. The bar, restaurant, and banquet area were completely gutted and renovated. A new swimming pool was built. We have a new pump house, new tennis courts, new irrigation controls systems, and some new equipment. This year, a complete renovation of the patio area was completed. It's beautiful. We have big screen TV's and new canopies for protection from the sun. I can't wait to show that off."

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Wiltwyck to Host June Meeting.....cont'd



Architect Brian Silva was retained 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. Two winters ago, mother nature took care of about ½ of the job," Jason laughed, "We had a major ice storm on February 4th. The inch of ice mangled over 200 trees. They were beyond saving. We had a crew of 15 here for almost a month removing the trees and grinding up all the stumps. The membership love it. It really opened up the course. We recently did an in-house facelift on all the bunkers. We brought them back to their original footprint, replaced the sand, and edged them. They look great."

So, there you have it. We look forward to seeing you on June 26th.

Kevin Collins

Scholarships Applications

DEADLINE: JULY 1, 2024

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

Any questions contact Susan
(914) 909-4843
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2024 Meeting Schedule

June 26th
Wiltwyck Golf Club

July 22nd
Winding Hills Golf Club

August 12th
NYSTA Challenge
The Monster Golf Club

September 16th
Worthington Cup
Centennial Golf Club

Oct - TBD
Warwick Valley CC

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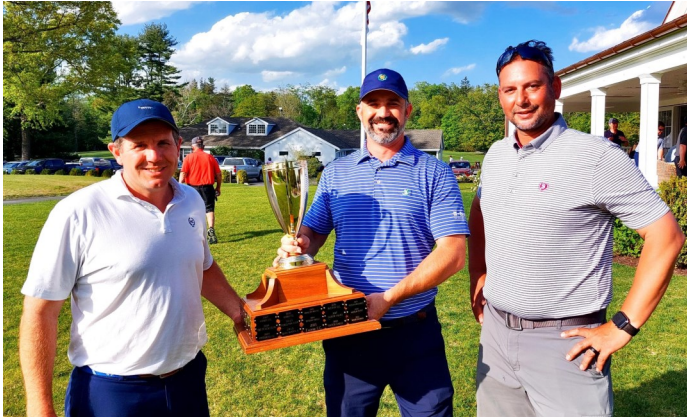


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Hudson Valley Cup....recap

What a wonderful day was had by all at the beautiful Bedford Golf and Tennis Club for our Annual Hudson Valley Cup Fundraiser. It's truly a special place and we were grateful to Bob for making it happen on short notice.

It was quite a warm spring day to showcase the course. Bob and his staff had it in spectacular shape and it was a true test of golf. It was also a treat to enjoy the newly redone clubhouse facility with excellent food and drink options all day. Thanks to all that made it a successful day.



The Winners:

Low Net Winners (The Cup)

Zach Brooks, Tom Reyes, Jared Luknicki & Dave Moffet

2nd Low Net

Dan Wilber, Brian Kelly, Chris Marta & Chris Strong

Long Drive: Dan Coughlin

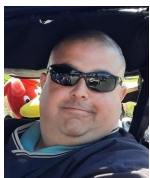
Closest to the pin: Hole 3 - Dan Wilber 6'2"

Closest to the pin: Hole 10 - John Meehan 9'4"

50/50 Winners: Dick Neufeld & Red Hewitt

Hope to see everyone at Wiltwyck on June 26th

Cheers,
Matt



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Westchester Turf Supply

Beverage Cart: Plant Food

TEE SPONSORS

AG Enterprises

Aquatrols

BASF

Carriere Materials

ENVU

Executive Turf/Synergy

Plant Food

Finch Turf

First Turf & Ornamental

Fisher & Son

MTE Turf Equipment

Noble Turf

Ocean Organics

Saratoga Sod

Synatek

Syngenta

Valley Green

Westchester Tractor

HUDSON VALLEY CUP AT BEDFORD GOLF & TENNIS





A MERGER THAT HAS TURF AT HEART

Aquatrols® and the turf division of **Precision Laboratories**™, two of the leading brands in turf management, have merged to form The Aquatrols Company. This merger brings together the most comprehensive portfolio of soil surfactant and adjuvant products in the industry.

The Aquatrols Company will continue to offer the full line of Aquatrols and Precision Laboratories soil surfactants, as well as Precision Laboratories tank mix adjuvants, colorants and additives. **VerdeLNX**™, a novel line of advanced nutrient products, will be added to the portfolio in early 2024.

EXPLORE OUR STORY

CURIOUS ABOUT THE AQUATROLS COMPANY? LEARN MORE AT WWW.AQUATROLSCOMPANY.COM



HVGCSA July Meeting



Winding Hills Golf Club

Montgomery, NY

Host: Stephen Bartro

Monday July 22, 2024



\$75

Price Includes:

18-Holes, Cart, Food & Prizes

Format: Scramble

Registration: 12:00pm

Shotgun: 1:00pm

Dinner & Prizes: 4:00pm

