

# Front Nine News

A publication of the Northwestern Pennsylvania Golf Course  
Superintendents Association, Inc.  
Volume 19, Issue 2 - June 2016



*A beautiful view of #12 at Cable Hollow Golf Course, Russell, PA*

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## NWPGCSA

**June Golf Meeting**  
**Thursday, June 23, 2016**  
**Cable Hollow Golf Course**  
**Host - David Bortz**

### Meeting Agenda:

**11:00 am - 12:00**      **Tee Times**  
**4:00 pm - 5:00 pm**    **Social Hour**  
**5:00 pm**                    **Steak Dinner**



## NWPGCSA, Inc. 2016 Meeting Schedule

Sunday, March 20th  
Summertime Widows Party  
& Business Meeting  
Venango Valley Inn & GC  
Venango, PA  
Host: Durbin Loreno

Thursday, May 5th  
Golf & Dinner Meeting  
The Kawkwa Club  
Erie, PA  
Hosts: Justin Sudo, James  
Hayes, Jr., & Dan Daub

Thursday, June 23rd  
Golf & Dinner Mtg.  
Cable Hollow Golf Course  
Russell, PA  
Host: David Bortz

August  
Possible Social Event  
Riverboat Cruise on  
Conneaut Lake

Monday, September 12th  
Golf, Dinner, & Annual  
Meeting w/Election of  
Officers & Directors  
New Castle Country Club  
New Castle, PA  
Host: Joe Giardina

## June Meeting at Cable Hollow Golf Course Thursday, June 23, 2016

Our host, David Bortz, is ready to welcome all of us at NWPGCSA and our guests to his beautiful golf course! Cable Hollow was built in 1968 and purchased by John, Sr. and Margaret Bortz in 1972. The Bortz family has been running the business ever since. David received his B. S. in Agronomy from The Pennsylvania State University in 1990. He and his wife, Rosie, have two children, Hannah and Josh. In his spare time, David enjoys golfing, hunting, and fishing. Cable Hollow Golf Course has a total yardage of 6,328 from the white tees with a par of 73.

**DIRECTIONS:** Take the best route to Warren, PA. Cable Hollow Golf Course is located approximately 8 miles north of Warren on Rt. 62 near the towns of Russell and Akeley. Turn east only Old Russell Road and then quickly make a right onto Cable Hollow Road. Go another mile and turn left onto Norberg Road to golf course. For more specific directions, go to [www.cablehollow.com](http://www.cablehollow.com) and click on "Maps and Directions" under "Contact".

**LUNCH** available before golf or at the turn at your own expense. David runs a special of \$3 for a hamburger, fries, and a drink.

**NO BAR ON SITE** but David will have some complimentary beer for golfers and anyone is welcome to bring any alcoholic beverages for golf and/or dinner.

**LOCKER ROOMS AND SHOWERS** are available.

**DRESS CODE** for the entire day is casual golf attire (collared shirts, no jeans). Soft spikes are required.

**RESERVATIONS** are requested by Monday, June 20th. Please call Julie Powell at (724) 421-7588 and be sure to give her your requested tee time and the names of any of your guests. We have an open guest policy, so any member can bring as many guests as they like (within reason). While reservations are needed for food preparations, last minute reservations are understood due to the nature of the turf industry. We have never turned anyone away.

**FEE FOR GOLF CART: \$12**  
(pay in Pro Shop-no American Express cards)

**MEETING FEE: \$30**  
(payable to NWPGCSA)

**CASH, CHECK, OR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED**



## 2016 Officers & Directors

### President

Michael L. Bochert  
Elk Valley Golf Course

### Vice President

Dominic "Joe" Giardina,  
CGCS  
New Castle Country Club

### Secretary/Treasurer

Bradley Chutz  
Pine Grove Public Golf  
Course

### Directors

Durbin Loreno  
Venango Valley Inn & Golf  
Course

Kyle Woodfield  
Whispering Woods Golf Club

Nicholas Kunik  
Lawrence Park Golf Club

Steve Bailey  
North Hills Golf Course

### Commercial Director

Michael Zedreck  
Terra Links, Inc.

### Executive Secretary/ Newsletter Editor

Julie Powell  
(724) 421-7588  
nwpgcsa@zoominternet.net  
www.nwpgcsa.com



Mike Bochert  
NWPGCSA President  
Supt., Elk Valley GC, Girard, PA

## President's Message

I hope everybody is having a great season so far. The weather has been great; minimal rain and decent temps have made our lives a little bit easier....until this week! Hopefully, your rounds are up, and you aren't being harassed about your budget too badly. Let's keep our fingers crossed that this will be the trend for 2016.

I'd like to thank Justin Sudo, James Hayes, Dan Daub, and their crew for putting on such a great event last month for us! The Kahkwa Club was in great shape, and everybody had a wonderful time. I would also like to thank everybody who attended the meeting. It was a nice turnout, which I hope is a continuing trend for our association. I would love to see just as many golfers at this month's meeting at Cable Hollow Golf Course near Warren, PA. Host, David Bortz and his family have a real gem of a course that needs to be played to be believed!

This year is an election year with all positions on the board up for election at our Annual Meeting on September 12th at New Castle Country Club. As always, we are looking for new board members to give fresh input. The amount of time required for board service is very minimal, and we always do our best to accommodate everybody's schedule. Please contact myself or any other board member if you'd like to sit in on a board meeting or would like more information.

I hope you all have a great year and find time to relax with family and friends!

Sincerely,  
Michael Bochert

### Correction to 2016 Membership Directory:

Change Jim Keller's home address to 26202 N. Woodland Road,  
Beachwood, OH 44122.





**PennState**  
College of Agricultural Sciences

**SAVE THE DATE:**  
Penn State University  
Turf and Ornamentals  
Field Days will be held  
from August 10 -11, 2016.



**NWPGCSA Elections to be held at  
September 12, 2016 meeting  
New Castle Country Club**

For the past 16 years, I have had the honor and privilege of serving as your Executive Secretary. During my tenure, the leadership of NWPGCSA has been strong, creative, and forward thinking. Some examples of this would be:

- ◆ Creation of a website and Facebook page
- ◆ The popular “Ladies Day Party” in January
- ◆ Creation of a new Mission Statement and Membership Pamphlet
- ◆ Conversion to an all-digital newsletter allowing for all color, better graphics, and even video links
- ◆ Expansion of scholarship opportunities to all members and all majors
- ◆ Instituting a Scholarship Fundraiser Raffle Ticket Sale to compliment the Scholarship Fundraiser Golf Tournament
- ◆ Creation of the Peer Turf Advisory Service for our members

We have had several younger superintendents step up to the plate and get elected to the board of directors, but we need more of you. If you spoke with any of our board members, I’m sure they would tell you how much they’ve enjoyed their board experience, how much they’ve learned from it, and how little time it actually takes to get the work done. I consider it part of my job to do as much of the “busy work” as possible so the board’s main focus is decision making. **PLEASE** consider adding your name to the ballot this September, **ESPECIALLY** if you’re a GCSAA member!

**WE NEED YOU!!!**

*Julie Powell, Executive Secretary*

**NWPGCSA Officer and Director Nomination Form**

(Elections to be held at the September 12, 2016 Annual Meeting at New Castle Country Club)

**President** \_\_\_\_\_

**Director** \_\_\_\_\_

**Vice President** \_\_\_\_\_

**Director** \_\_\_\_\_

**Treasurer** \_\_\_\_\_

**Director** \_\_\_\_\_

(These 3 positions must be filled by a  
GCSAA Class A or B member.)

**Commercial Director** \_\_\_\_\_

All positions are 2-year terms. All nominees must have already agreed to serve if elected. The form can be printed, cut out, and mailed to: NWPGCSA, PO Box 157, Forestville, PA 16035 with the name(s) of the nominee(s), or simply call Julie Powell at (724) 421-7588.

**Thank You to Our Commercial Members!**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Our Gold Patrons**



**Our Silver Patrons**

BASF  
Crop Production Services

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E-Z-GO, A Textron Company  
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Hodges Rash Company, Inc.  
Irrigation Technical Service Co.  
Keystone Turf Products  
Kriger & Company, Inc.  
Select Source  
Syngenta  
Terra Links, Inc.  
Weaver Golf & Turf Solutions  
Yamaha/Nuttall Golf Cars, Inc.

**WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!!!**

(Already listed in the 2016 Membership Directory)

Rick Catalogna, Class D  
Walker Supply, Inc.

Nick Gialloreto, Class D  
Walker Supply, Inc.

Joe Hartman, Class D  
SiteOne

Kevin McCune, Class D  
Kriger & Company, Inc.

David McGhee, Class R  
Retired

Dr. Ben McGraw, Class H  
Penn State University

Zane Wallace, Class D  
E. H. Griffith, Inc.

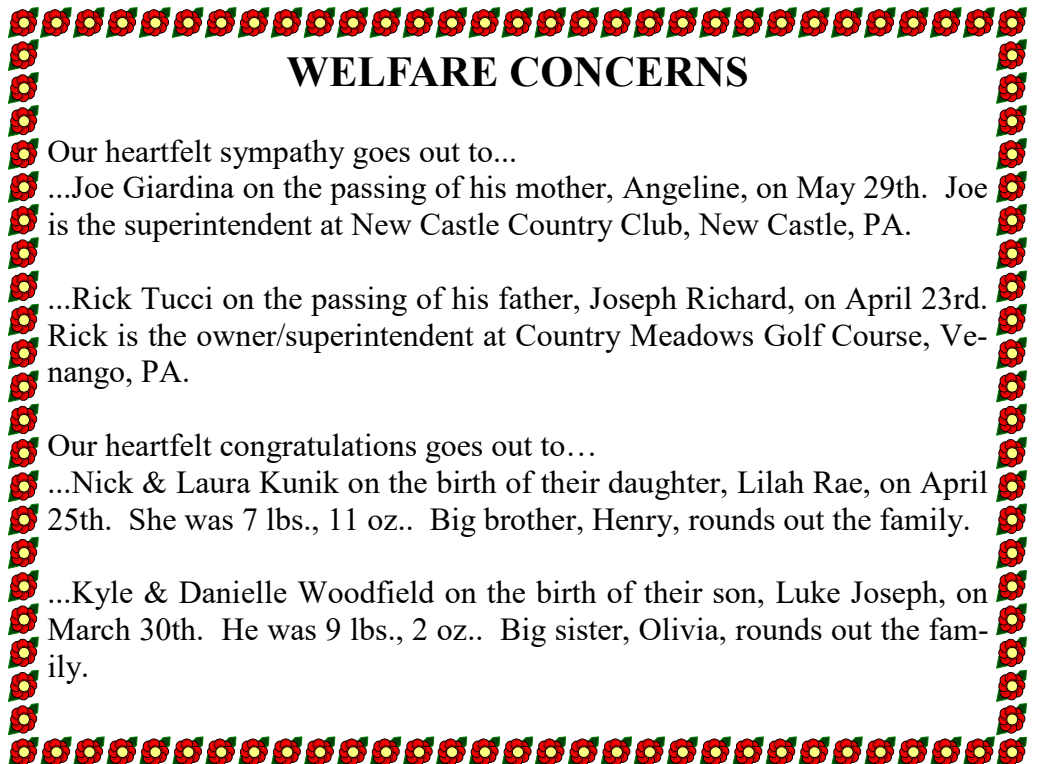
**WELFARE CONCERNS**

Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to...  
...Joe Giardina on the passing of his mother, Angeline, on May 29th. Joe is the superintendent at New Castle Country Club, New Castle, PA.

...Rick Tucci on the passing of his father, Joseph Richard, on April 23rd. Rick is the owner/superintendent at Country Meadows Golf Course, Venango, PA.

Our heartfelt congratulations goes out to...  
...Nick & Laura Kunik on the birth of their daughter, Lilah Rae, on April 25th. She was 7 lbs., 11 oz.. Big brother, Henry, rounds out the family.

...Kyle & Danielle Woodfield on the birth of their son, Luke Joseph, on March 30th. He was 9 lbs., 2 oz.. Big sister, Olivia, rounds out the family.





# NWPGCSA Scholarship Fund News

## Raffle Ticket Winners!!!

The 2016 NWPGCSA Scholarship Fund-raiser Raffle ticket winners have been drawn and notified! We had such a great response from our members donating 4 rounds (18 holes) of golf with 2 carts as prizes that we were able to expand our Prize Groups from 3 to 5. The 5 winners this year and the Prize Group they won are as follows:

### Prize Group A Winner:

Jay Braund of Allison Park, PA

### Prize Group A courses are:

Lawrence Park GC  
Tam 'O Shanter GC  
Black Hawk GC  
Scenic Heights GC  
Elk Valley GC  
Cable Hollow GC

### Prize Group B Winner:

Jack Welcheck of Conneautville, PA

### Prize Group B courses are:

New Castle CC  
North Hills GC  
Stoughton Acres GC  
Country Meadows GC  
Downing GC  
Leaning Pines GC (formerly St Marys CC)

### Prize Group C Winner:

Bruce Clingan of Pulaski, PA

### Prize Group C courses are:

Lake Shore CC  
Cross Creek Resort  
Oakview GC  
Wanango GC  
Pine Acres CC  
Venango Valley GC

### Prize Group D Winner:

Sam Reichl of Utica, PA

### Prize Group D courses are:

The Country Club of Meadville  
Whispering Woods GC  
Conley Resort Inn  
Pine Hill GC  
Green Meadows GC

### Prize Group E Winner:

Trish Sweatman of Venango, PA

### Prize Group E courses are:

Lake View CC  
Venango Valley GC  
Rittswood GC  
Crab Apple Ridge GC  
Pine Grove GC  
Mt Hope GC

A HUGE THANK YOU goes out to all of our members who donated 4 rounds of golf with 2 carts at their courses as prizes for this raffle. We realize you get asked to donate "free" golf quite often and appreciate you doing so for our scholarship fund. Hopefully, someday it will benefit someone in your family!

The money raised from our Scholarship Fundraiser Raffle ticket sale has dropped off from previous years. We used to clear \$1,800 from this fundraiser, and this year we only cleared \$1,160. There were 263 tickets distributed, mostly from the 2 tickets every member received in their dues notice, but also from a select few (especially Durbin Loreno) who asked for and sold extra tickets. If you do the math at \$10 a ticket, you can see that only 116 ticket stubs were returned with payment. Thank you so much to those of you who sold your two tickets and the few who sold even more! We would like to see more of you selling your tickets and trying to sell even more. Former prize winners will attest to what great prizes we're offering for a \$10 chance. Durbin Loreno will be happy to offer suggestions on how he sells 40-50 tickets every year!

## Preparing The Golf Course At Oakmont For The U.S. Open Championship

By Darin Bevard, director, Championship Agronomy

The 2016 U.S. Open Championship at Oakmont Country Club in Oakmont, Pennsylvania is quickly approaching. The best golfers in the world will be challenged by fast greens and firm conditions if the weather cooperates. At some golf courses, superintendents are approached by course officials and customers that wonder why their golf course, especially their greens, cannot be maintained like the courses they see on television. Preparation “inside the ropes” of the U.S. Open Championship is a massive undertaking that requires extra maintenance staff, volunteers and equipment.

Consider these points:

- Preparation for the U.S. Open Championship begins several years in advance of the event. Often, the frequency of aeration and topdressing is dramatically increased one to two years before hosting a U.S. Open Championship. Extra aeration and topdressing provides the best opportunity to present firm, fast conditions and promotes healthy turf. In the last two growing seasons, the putting greens at Oakmont Country Club have been double drilled-and-filled four times, core aerated five times, deep verticut five times and deep-tine aerated four times. The aeration programs implemented at Oakmont Country Club are very aggressive and represent a significant disruption to playability that most golfers would not tolerate.
- The approximately 40-person golf course maintenance staff at Oakmont Country Club will be supplemented by over 100 volunteers during the U.S. Open Championship. That equates to seven workers per hole with an additional 14 people available to tend to practice facilities and other areas. Many of the maintenance volunteers during U.S. Open Championships are superintendents, assistant superintendents, and other experienced turfgrass industry professionals. Equipment distributors also will supply additional equipment during the U.S. Open Championship, allowing maintenance tasks to be completed quicker than normal.



*From daily mowing of putting greens and other playing surfaces to filling divots and raking bunkers, U.S. Open Championship preparation is a massive undertaking.*

●To maintain green speeds for the U.S. Open Championship, putting greens will be mowed four times and rolled twice daily. Soil moisture levels will be constantly monitored to provide a balance between turfgrass health and desired firmness. However, the intensity of maintenance will only be sustained for the week of the championship and weather conditions will factor into maintenance decisions just as they do every day at any golf course. Maintenance intensity will be reduced to limit turf stress if excessive heat or rainfall occurs. Championship conditions push the limits of turfgrass, but the health of turfgrass is always considered when preparing for the U.S. Open Championship.

●During the week following the U.S. Open Championship, putting greens will be vented or aerated to alleviate stress. In many cases, the course will be closed to play for several days providing an opportunity for the grass to recover from the previous week's activity.

The resources required to prepare a golf course for a U.S Open Championship makes maintaining U.S. Open Championship-level conditioning on a daily basis out of reach for most courses. The best golfers in the world are challenged by U.S. Open Championship conditions and, while the average golfer may like to experience these conditions, a steady diet of very fast, firm greens and thick, tall rough will not be enjoyable for most players and could lead to turfgrass decline.



*Extra equipment and volunteers are imperative for daily preparations during the U.S. Open Championship.*



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### **US Open Complimentary Admission Policy for GCSAA Members:**

USGA (all USGA championships)

For Class AA, A, A-Retired, Class B and Class B-Retired, and spouse or guest (except U.S. Open)

Complimentary grounds admission to all USGA Championships is available to Class AA, A, A-Retired, Class B and Class B-Retired members. Complimentary admission to all events, except the U.S. Open, will also be offered to the spouse or guest of these members. Members should park at general parking and take the complimentary shuttle to the Will Call facility, and then present their valid gold GCSAA membership card and ID. This procedure will need to be followed each day of the championship.

U.S. Open

Children age 12 and under will gain complimentary daily access when accompanied by a credentialed (tickets or badges) adult. Reduced-rate tickets are available for youths age 13-17 when accompanied by a credentialed adult.



## Tree removal has left Oakmont in the clear for 2016 U.S. Open



Superintendent John Zimmers is caretaker for one of the country's best golf courses

**Lawrence, Kan. (June 7, 2016)** — John Zimmers points to a lone elm tree that stands near the No. 3 tee. “That’s one nervous tree,” he told Howard Richman, associate editor for *Golf Course Management (GCM)* magazine, for this article. *GCM* is the flagship publication of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA).

The solitary elm at Oakmont Country Club, which is located alongside the Allegheny River in western Pennsylvania, is the only one that remains on the golf course’s interior.

According to Zimmers, currently in his 17th season as golf course superintendent at Oakmont CC, 14,500 to 15,000 trees have been removed over a 25-year span. Approximately 7,000 of those were eliminated leading up to the 2007 U.S. Open there. Since that time, about 7,500 trees have been purged. Now only a handful of trees remain near the clubhouse.

“The views you get now are just astonishing. It reveals this beautiful piece of land and really shows off the architecture. Now, you can see everything. This is visionary,” said Zimmers, 45, and a 23-year member of GCSAA.

All of that tree removal was anything but a snap decision. But in the end, the work honors course designer H.C. Fownes, who died in 1935. Fownes’ only design is ranked No. 6 by Golf Digest in its “America’s 100 Greatest Golf Courses rankings,” and come June 16-19, Oakmont CC will host a U.S. Open for a record ninth time.

“If you’re a member of Oakmont Country Club, you have got championship really in your DNA. I’ve certainly not seen a golf course around this country that is more focused on championships than Oakmont Country Club,” said Mike Davis, executive director and CEO of the USGA.

The place now closely resemble what Fownes viewed the last time he laid eyes on it. From the clubhouse back porch, you can almost see the entire course except for the 16th green, which rests below eyesight.

In between major tree removals, Oakmont CC installed a new irrigation system. Ditches that can come into play were restored, and they have reduced overall water usage by 45 percent.

Whether intentional or not, Oakmont CC's tree removal plan serves as an industry trendsetter. "Somebody has to be the explorer so the rest of us can follow," said Matt Shaffer, director of golf course management at historic Merion Golf Club in Ardmore, Pa. "For the rest of us, it's been easier to utilize Oakmont as the example of what can be done."

For Zimmers, it is more of an excellent agronomic adventure nowadays with trees out of his way. "Frost burns off faster. If it rains, it dries faster. We need less water, less fertilizers," he said. "Overall, there's no question it's better for everybody. For golfers. For superintendents."

As always, the greens are fast. Members request it. Each fall, some of the best players at the club gather for an event in which Zimmers says the Stimpmeter easily reaches 15.

"There's a lot of pressure to have fast, firm greens," he said. "That's the No. 1 thing with my job. It's always been that way. I don't mind the challenge. My standards, I believe, are much higher than anybody's. That doesn't mean that we fall short sometimes of achieving our ultimate goal of having the golf course play and perform the best that it can. But that doesn't mean we're not trying."

For Zimmers, being a caretaker for Fownes is a privilege.

"Oakmont's the benchmark of original architecture restoration," Zimmers said. "We have a fabulous story to tell."



**Congratulations  
To  
Wayne Conley!!!**

**Longtime NWPGCSA member, Wayne Conley, received the Tourism Ambassador of the Year Award at the Butler County Tourism and Convention Bureau's Toast to Tourism dinner on May 5, 2016.**

**The Bureau created the new Tourism Ambassador of the Year Award to honor an individual who has gone above and beyond as a tourism advocate. Jack Cohen, President of the tourism bureau said, "Wayne Conley, without question, has made our tourism agency what it is today."**



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## The Economic and Environmental Benefits of Implementing a Zero Waste Goal Program at a Golf Facility (A Case Study of the Penn State Golf Courses) By Travis Lesser

Travis Lesser is an Entrepreneurship Instructor at Penn State University, and is also the Owner and Founder of Spring Mill Solutions.

I am very pleased to say that one evening last week I began to work on a zero waste project for the Penn State Golf Courses in State College, Pennsylvania. The ultimate goal of this project, and Spring Mill Solutions' expertise is to find ways to reduce waste, while at the same time adding environmentally sound and efficient course and club management practices to the operation. As I have mentioned in previous posts, the proper labeling of containers is imperative to make such a project work. In addition, the location and number of containers must also be considered in order to reach a zero waste goal.

As part of my initial assessment, I rode around the Blue and White golf courses, inspecting the current waste container layout and determining how players were using them. While riding around in a golf cart without my clubs and peering into every trash can and recycling bin may have resulted in some strange looks from players, it felt great to be out there on such a beautiful May evening.

It took me approximately ninety minutes to ride around the golf courses. While this was less time than I had anticipated it would take to conduct the assessment, I attribute that to the fact that I am very familiar with both layouts and knew the various "cut-through" paths the grounds crew uses to get around the course in a manner that does not interfere with play. However, this initial tour did reveal a way for the course to save some time in their operations, which may be the most valuable benefit to a grounds crew during the season. But more on that later.

One of the first pieces of useful information I gathered occurred when I drove up to my first water station, which happened to be next to the eighth tee of the Blue Course. I was pleased to see a blue, "slim jim" recycling container placed next to the water cooler kiosk. Unfortunately, that pleasure quickly went away when I stood next to it and looked inside. Two paper, cone-shaped cups from the dispenser attached to the water cooler were sitting inside. While this shows an understanding that these paper cups are recyclable, my concern is that this is not the intended can for those cups. If the course only recycles certain items, or if the items need to be separated, wrong inputs could result in contamination issues rendering those items unrecyclable.

Contamination is a major problem when it comes to recycling. In an August 2015 USA Today interview, Waste Management director of public affairs Susan Robinson estimated that the recycling the company processes is 16% contaminated. The same article goes on to say this number has doubled in the past ten years. [1] Paper cups by themselves are likely not going to create a contamination problem, but concern is warranted if other items are placed into the container with recyclable products. The takeaway from this is that receptacles need to be properly labeled indicating proper inputs, as this eliminates many problems before they happen.

The biggest takeaway from my initial assessment has to do with the number and location of receptacles on the



**What is wrong with this picture?**

golf course. Across the 36 holes at Penn State, there are 51 containers ranging in size from small cans to a couple of large 95 gallon rolling containers, most of these are staged at or near the teeing ground of each hole. That's 51 containers that must be checked each morning by a staff member. Even if the container is empty, that employee must take a moment to check it in order to be sure. Any time saved by consolidating the number of receptacles and strategically placing them at select areas around the course would most certainly be beneficial. In my mind, the best places for these receptacles would be at water stations and/or at strategic "cross-over" points where players pass by multiple times during the round. I don't think there is a superintendent anywhere that does not want to reduce staff hours for a daily task, and this is a rather simple solution to reach that end.

I will be continuing to post updates, including results from the waste audits being performed with the assistance of Penn State startup ReDi Index. Also, I will chronicle steps taken for procurement assistance to reduce the amount of the facility's packaging being thrown out. This project will also be looking into recycling of golf course and clubhouse organic waste and utilizing these materials into the course's maintenance regiment. So be sure to check back for regular updates on our progress on these fronts as well.

This is a very exciting time for Spring Mil Solutions, with even more news coming soon! Stay up to date on our Facebook and Twitter feeds, and be sure to check the website. Finally, as always, please contact us if you would like to have your facility's waste management practices assessed. With golf season in full swing, the sooner we set up your assessment, the sooner you can reduce costs, and improve your course operation efficiency and its environmental footprint.

[1] <http://www.usatoday.com/story/money/2015/08/17/recycling-confusing-but-new-ad-campaign-helps-consumers-sort-out/30288983/>

## Parting Shots



Just a few of the bountiful door prizes supplied by our commercial members at our March 20th Ladies Day Party at Venango Valley Inn & GC.



The beautiful clubhouse at The Kalkwa Club of Erie which hosted our May 5th Golf & Dinner Meeting thanks to hosts, Justin Sudo, James Hayes, and Dan Daub.