

# Front Nine NEWS

**A publication of the Northwestern Pennsylvania Golf Course  
Superintendents Association, Inc.  
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## **October Golf, Fishing, Dinner, & Annual Meeting**

**Thursday, October 8, 2020**

**Mt. Hope Golf Course  
29790 State Highway 27  
Guys Mills, PA 16327  
Hosts - Doug & Merle Smith**

### **Meeting Agenda:**

**Fishing all day (bring your own tackle)**

**10:00 am - 12:00 pm Tee Times**

**4:30 pm - 5:30 pm Social Time**

**5:30 pm Grilled Steak Dinner**

**Annual Meeting following dinner**

**Carts: complimentary**

**Meeting Fee: \$30  
(payable to NWPGCSA)**

**Cash, checks or credit cards  
accepted**

**No bar but BYOB is allowed**

**No locker rooms or showers**

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## NWPGCSA, Inc. 2020 Meeting Schedule

Thursday, March 12th  
March Business Meeting  
Riverside Brewing Company  
Cambridge Springs, PA

June Golf & Dinner Mtg.  
The Kahkwa Club of Erie  
Erie, PA  
Hosts: Justin Sudo, Daniel  
Daub, James Hayes, Jr.  
**CANCELLED DUE TO  
COVID-19**

August Social Event  
There were no scholarship ap-  
plicants this year so this event  
was not held

Thursday, October 8th  
Golf, Fishing, Dinner,  
& Annual Mtg.  
Mt. Hope Golf Course  
Guys Mills, PA  
Hosts: Doug & Merle Smith

## October Golf, Fishing, Dinner & Annual Meeting At Mt. Hope Golf Course Thursday, October 8, 2020

### ABOUT THE HOST SUPERINTENDENT:

Doug Smith was involved in the construction of Mt. Hope Golf Course, which began in June of 1990, and has been the General Manager since it opened in May of 1993. He also had the experience of working for Lou Morgan at Toftrees during a spring semester at Penn State University and one summer working for Eddie Locke at Edgewood Country Club in Pittsburgh. Doug graduated from Penn State University in 1993, but, surprisingly, his degree was not for turfgrass. He holds a B.A. degree in General Arts & Science: Speech Communication; English Composition; Labor and Industrial Relations with a French Minor! Doug has been a NWPGCSA member since 1993.

Doug and his wife, Claire, have been married 26 years. Claire is a teacher at Maplewood Junior High School. They have two sons. Douglas, 23, graduated from Notre Dame and works for Google in Seattle, Washington. Steven, 21, is a senior at Temple University. Doug lists his interests as family and work. In response to the question, "What is your worst problem and/or best solution?", Doug's answer is to continue to improve the course on a very tight budget and to overcome the family hierarchy.

### ABOUT THE COURSE:

Mt. Hope Golf Course is the only Merle Smith designed course in the world! Merle was born on the 80 acre dairy farm that became the original 9-hole course. Merle sold golf course maintenance supplies for 26 years, but in 1988, he purchased his childhood home and land from his mother, Ila Poly Smith. The purpose was to provide a lifetime home for his mother and to design and develop a 9-hole golf course. PolySmith Inc. was founded by Merle and Mary Smith along with Janet (niece) and Dr. Cecil Furer, D.O. Construction began in 1990 under the supervision of Gladys (sister) and William Mcfadden. The 9-hole course opened in May of 1993. An additional 127 acres were purchased, and the second nine opened in 2001. PolySmith Inc. is a Chapter S corporations with 50 shareholders all but 3 of which are family members.

Mt. Hope Golf Course is home to the Maplewood Tigers and Lakeview Sailors high school teams. The course features include water hazards, sand and grass bunkers, and trees and meadows. Greens average 6,300 sq. ft. and are built to USGA recommendations. Greens, tees, and fairways were originally seeded with bentgrass. The diversity of holes requires thought in club selection. It has a total yardage of 6,807 with a par of 72.

### RESERVATIONS:

Please RSVP by Tuesday, October 6th by calling Julie Powell at (724) 421-7588. Tee times can be arranged by calling the course at (814) 789-2475. Guests are welcome.

### DIRECTIONS:

Mt. Hope Golf Course is located halfway between Meadville and Titusville on Rt. 27. The address to enter in your GPS is 29790 State Highway 27, Guys Mills, PA 16327.