

superlative supers



Long Hollow superintendent holds steady course

By Paul Erland

Andy Taylor, sheriff of Mayberry, is a character Rick Tayes, superintendent of Long Hollow Golf Course, admires. He named his son, Taylor, after the TV lawman, and like Andy, Rick prefers to pass the credit around.

"The crew is what makes it (the course)," he says. "They take a lot of pride in what they do." Tayes works with a full-time four-person crew and four summer temporaries. They are out on the

course from 6 a.m. until mid-afternoon, and they're striving every day, he says, to make things just a little better.

Long Hollow is a municipal course, built in 1982; half of it sits atop the old city landfill. The city of Gallatin cares about the course, and officials recognize that it's an asset to the community. Thus, they've done a good job, Tayes says, to come up with funds out of a budget that must be carved up in a lot of pieces. And

he and his staff have done a good job, if he does say so himself, in coming up with creative ways to stretch a dollar.

"We've added four bridges over the lakes, done some rockwork around the greens and added some traps," he notes.

Daily consistency is a large part of the yearly agenda at Long Hollow. "We cut the greens every day," Tayes says. "People will think of the greens the way they find them *that day*. We try to keep up the quality every day."

Tayes has spent most of the days of his adult life on a golf course. Right out of high school, he started as assistant superintendent

of three courses in Kissimmee, Fla., helping to build two of the three and to run them after they were built. He was an assistant at Long Hollow, left and then returned; he's been there for 11 years now. He misses the fishing



Long Hollow is a beautiful course operated by the city of Gallatin. The condition of the course is a tribute to the hard work of the superintendent, Rick Tayes, and his crew. Tayes stands on one of several bridges that cross water. Many of the rock formations were built by the crew without any outside help.



The crew (left to right) is: Rick Tayes; W.C. Autry, full time at 81; Brian Templeton, mechanic; Jim Whitehurst; Jessie Cole; Don Fuqua; James Wheeler, assistant superintendent; and Arthur Hatt. Not pictured are Joe Sutton and Jerry Walker.

in Florida but not the crowds, and he says that Tennessee has been a welcome change of pace.

Tayes and his wife, Joyce, have been married 21 years. Taylor, 15, plays hockey at Hendersonville High; their daughter, Kayla, 19, is preparing to go off to beauty school. Tayes plays a little golf - he's a hacker, he admits - and his crew plays the home course whenever possible to get the lay of the land.

"I get ideas from golfers," Tayes says. "Sometimes they see something I'm missing." He also gets help from superintendents at other courses, and he doesn't hesitate to call them, even though they're competing, technically, for golfers. "They're all real helpful," he says, "and I try to be, too."

The course at Long Hollow is in good shape, he says, considering what the freezes did to the Bermuda grass and

what the current drought is doing to the roughs. "The lakes are low now, and we're starving for water," he says. "We're having to conserve." But like Andy Taylor, Tayes will make do with what he has.

"If I ever get satisfied and sit back and not be creative, I might as well move on," he adds. Also like Andy, there's one big thing that keeps him going: making other people happy.

"I get satisfaction when I see people enjoying playing," he says. "That makes my day."

Long Hollow Golf Course is located at 1080 Long Hollow Pike in Gallatin. The champion par-70 course has Bermuda fairways and bent grass greens. Water comes into play on seven holes. Call (615) 451-3120 or visit www.lastchanceeteetimes.com/courses/LongHollowGolf for more information.

D1 NOW HAS TPI CERTIFIED GOLF FITNESS INSTRUCTORS!

D1's training philosophy, combined with TPI certification, **WILL** help you reach your golf potential!



SPORTS TRAINING | THERAPY

D1SportsTraining.com

D1 Chattanooga - D1 Knoxville
D1 Memphis - D1 Nashville

1-877-WeAreD1



Concise. Simple.

Author is a PGA Professional with 20-plus years as a teaching pro. Fundamentals. The Short Game. Productive Practice.



Concise.
A golfer's guide to instruction:
Simple.
Mini-book with maxie-results.

To order: stevejirkpatrick@comcast.net
or call: 615-480-7829

Our Advertiser 15 Years 1992-2007

Huge selection of premium CIGARS, PIPES & TOBACCOS

Elliston Place
T.M.
PIPE & TOBACCO

2204 Elliston Place (upstairs) • (615)320-7624
orders@smokinpipes.com www.smokinpipes.com