



*Volume XIV Number 5*  
*August 2012*

# *The Fox*

## *President's Letter*

*William Tucker*

As I write this, we remain in the midst of a serious drought, with today's forecast of 96 with 15 MPH winds, a bad combo for our turf health. Bad as it's been, we remain verdant with conditions that have remained consistently good despite roller coaster weather swings. Steve will fill you in on what we're doing to keep it green and healthy in his article. Other clubs in the area have not been so fortunate, with one paying \$900/day for city water, just to keep conditions playable.

It's been a while since I've been able to report good news, given the state of the economy and declines in our membership level, but clubs everywhere are seeing increased play this year as compared to 2011 and that's the case at BSCC as well. Cart, green fees and outside tournament revenues have shown healthy increases over last year and the Guest Pass Sale has raised over \$14,000. This last number is a double winner, as it means more non-members who are avid golfers will be experiencing our wonderful course and the great shape it's in, which often translates to more new Members.

I'm sensing a new optimism when I talk to Members, definitely less negativity. Virtually no one has questioned the assessment, we've had some interest in the stock sale (\$2,500 total/share, up to a total of three shares/membership - see Laura for details), and just recently we've received two anonymous donations of \$500 each, to be put toward course improvement. Thank you, whomever you are, both for the monetary boost and the spirit your generosity shows as an example to us all. That's an extreme statement of the sense of community we have to nurture.

We finally have a new Board of Directors and I'd like to welcome the two new Board members as well as the re-elected incumbent. Bob Miskanin returns as Restaurant Chair once again. Bob is one of the hardest working Board members I've known in the 21 years I've been a Member at BSCC and he has developed a close working relationship with Panza's over the years. Harry Talman joins us and will be responsible for carts and insurance, bringing a lifetime of experience in the insurance trade with him to ensure we're getting the best coverage possible for the lowest cost. Tom Hudy returns as a Board member after a few years' hiatus and will be responsible for the Golf Shop and tournaments, both inside and outside. The last time Tom held this position, his hard work maximized tournament participation to a point we hadn't seen for several years.

Sue Kahler remains Vice President and Green Chair, Bruce Kay returns as Treasurer and Dave Runyon is our new Secretary. Randy Alexander (who has been working hard with Jimmy Bryant to improve course conditions - thank you both), will take over responsibility for the Clubhouse, Mike Zegarelli will move to Membership and Advertising, with Dave Runyon and I as assistants. Dave Runyon will be in charge of Member Communications and Al Squire will continue in his volunteer post of Controller.

With Keith McNab's absence from the Board, I have taken back responsibility for the Fox, which explains the return to the older format. I'm a slow learner, but I'm working on mastering the new program Keith used to make the Fox look so spiffy over the last year. Keith will be helping Dave with any transitional problems we may have with the website as well. Thanks for your tireless work over the past several years, Keith.

Enjoy our great course, have fun and think rain.



*August 2011*

*Ballston Spa Country Club*

*The Fox*



*Steve Solsky*

## *Superintendent's Report*

As we trudge our way through the summer months, we battle with mother nature daily. Hot and dry days put the turf grass to the test day in and day out. After emptying the #18 pond to use for irrigation we had to stop watering fairways to conserve water. It only takes one day of 90 degrees, sun, and some wind to dry the grass out. Some of the fairways developed some brown spots on them. The turf will come back in these areas as soon as the temperatures cool and it starts to rain a little more frequently. The entire capital area has felt the effect of the heat and lack of moisture. I am sure you have seen your lawn at home burn up. If you have irrigation or have been watering your yard or gardens, I am sure you know how expensive and frustrating it is to keep things alive. We are almost done with the hot days of summer. The cool weather of fall will be here soon enough.

A lot of Members have been asking me about our water situation lately. Most long time members have not seen the bottom of the #18 pond since it was built. When the creek almost stopped flowing a few weeks ago, I used our new pump and pipe line to start transferring water so we could irrigate with it. The #18 pond is nothing but a holding pond. It gets filled from runoff from the parking lot. The pond does get some water from small springs and ground water, but this is small in comparison to the amount of water that is needed to fill it back up.

Ideas are being thrown around about how to get more water. Wells are a great way to get water. I don't know how much water can be pumped out of a deep well, but even some would be great. Another holding pond would be another great way to have a couple of million gallons of water readily available. The pond would fill up in the spring and when needed during the summer, it could be drained into our irrigation pond. The pond would fill back up in the fall with rains or could be filled up with the irrigation when the creeks start to flow again.

A third possibility (and probably the easiest way to increase the amount of water we have to irrigate with) is to increase the size of our current irrigation pond. When the creeks on our property are flowing and it rains every now and then, the pond on #17 easily refills after irrigating the course. In times of little rain, the creeks slow and the volume of water in the pond is not enough to continuously water the entire golf course. The #17 pond is too small of a pond when you rely on it exclusively for the irrigation of an entire golf course. The pond can be emptied in a week when the creeks aren't flowing. It is slow to refill which means I have to limit the amount of turf to be irrigated daily. The first step is cutting back on fairways which I have already had to do this year.

A fourth and one of the more expensive options, would be to ask the town to install a fire hydrant on the property. A lot of golf courses pay for their water. The town where they are located give them a bulk discount rate to pump during the night. Research would have to be done on prices and policies to even consider moving ahead with this option.

All of these options are great ideas. I think it would be in the club's best interest to begin now with planning and enacting an option to secure the availability of more water. When the entire golf course (greens, tees, and fairways) is irrigated with 15 minutes of water, we use about 100,000 gallons of water. When the weather is dry like the past few weeks, we will irrigate every day until it cools down or we get rain. Once we get through the month of August, we can breathe a sigh of relief as September (hopefully) will bring us cool weather and probably some more rain. Hopefully no tropical storms though (Irene, Earl).





## Feast or Famine

The holding pond on the 18th hole dried up after we had to transfer water to the 17th hole pond due to the extreme heat and lack of rainwater. The Board has discussed several plans for future situations such as this, including increasing the size of the 17th hole pond in front of the 11th tee.

The picture of the 18th hole pond overflowing was in the aftermath of hurricane Irene last summer.





# From the Golf Shop

Todd Manderson

## Merchandise Sale

All members will receive a 10% discount off all clothing for the remainder of the season. Many of you are beginning to accumulate some credit and you should start to spend it while the selections are still very good. All credit will have to be used by October 31<sup>st</sup>. We have a large selection of quality products on hand and many sizes to choose from. All merchandise credit on the books is to be used for in stock merchandise only. I will special order for members but the credit on the books can't be used for payment of that merchandise.

## USGA Report

The tree removal on #12 that is ongoing is because of the recommendation that has been given by the USGA representative. The 12<sup>th</sup> hole is a double hazard when the ball is hit into the creek on the right hand side. With that being said, a double hazard is when you hit a ball into the hazard on the right and then you take your drop, you still don't have a shot at the green. With the removal of the trees on the right hand side of the creek, a player can now drop the ball and have a reasonable opportunity to hit the 3<sup>rd</sup> shot onto the green. With the double hazard being there, a player really has no opportunity to make a 5 with a ball going into the hazard. They are most likely to make a 6 at best. This will not make the hole play any easier but will make the hole play more realistically and not penalize a player twice for one missed shot.

## Reciprocals

We have had more reciprocals enjoying our golf course than in the past and more outside players enjoying it also. With our greens in fabulous condition, the word of mouth has gotten around that this is the place to play and that is a tribute to Steve Solsky and his crew for the job well done even during the dry weather we have had to deal with. The playing conditions are great and please don't hesitate to let the crew know when you see them.



The Tee Shot on 12  
Right is Wrong  
Left is Right

All reciprocal tee times must be made through the Golf Shop

**The Skenandoa Club**  
Clinton, NY  
(315) 853-6612

**Kanon Valley CC**  
Oneida, NY  
(315) 363-8283

**Cedar Lake Club**  
Clayville, NY  
(315) 839-5838

**CC of Syracuse**  
Jamesville, NY  
(315) 469-3298

**Cazenovia CC**  
Cazenovia, NY  
(315) 655-8880

**Oneonta CC**  
Oneonta, NY  
(607) 432-8950

**Rutland CC**  
Rutland, VT

**Lakeshore Golf & Yacht Club**  
No. Syracuse, NY

**Tuscarora Golf Club**  
Marcellus, NY

**Manchester CC**  
Manchester, VT

**Columbia Golf & CC**  
Claverack, NY  
(518) 851-9195

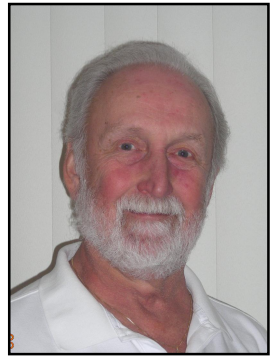
# House & Restaurant Report

July was a tough month with the high temperature and no rain, but things are settling down. The weather has returned to normal and everyone is enjoying our great golf course.

We have had one of our "tasting" events (martini tasting). The format was somewhat modified and all seemed to enjoy the event. More of these will be scheduled in the near future. Announcements will be posted on the "neon" board in the bar room and a notice will be sent via email.

The 2 for 1 beer specials on Fridays will continue when there are no events planned, but they are being moved from the gazebo to the front deck.

The new schedule for the Cart/Shack has been working well. The cart will continue to be on the course additional hours. It will have sandwiches and snacks along with normal selection of beverages. There is a "menu board" on the cart behind the driver with information as to what is available and the prices. If do not see what you want, please ask the cart person. They may be able to get it for you. This is being done to better serve our members.



*Bob Mishanin*

## Membership Report



*Mike  
Zegarelli*

Membership, is the single most important issue facing the Ballston Spa County Club. Membership is our single most important source of income and the lifeblood of our course. As everyone is painfully aware our membership numbers have been in decline, as have most of the private clubs across the country. What we have to do here at BSCC is capture a bigger piece of a shrinking pie to maintain our membership numbers and keep our dues as low as possible.

How can we do this? Well, we are going to brainstorm and come up with innovative membership options both for our current members as well as ways to entice new members. This is not the job of any one person or group. Everyone in the BSCC community needs to help out with ideas as well as promoting the club whenever possible.

Some of the actions we'll be taking include soliciting outside tournaments from our vendors, getting excellent exposure from offering a couple of foursomes as auction items on WMHT, offering a Fall Membership special that starts sooner than usual with a pro-rated cost depending on when the prospective member takes advantage of it, a "Bring Three, You're Free" offer to entice more walk-on business during the Track Season (Mon—Thurs only), as well as cart pamphlets on every outside tournament cart promoting current specials and membership opportunities. We'll also be stepping up our Corporate Membership efforts for the duration of this year as well as for 2013. These are just a few of the plans we have at this point.

Please feel free to tell any Board member of an idea you may have as all options need to be on the table. Which brings me to my last point. The current members of BSCC all need to be "salesmen and women" and promote the club to potential members. You are our best ambassadors to tell golfers of the Club and the benefits of being a member. The course is in the best shape in recent memory, this should be an easy task.

If we ALL focus on membership and do our best to attract new members we will succeed. Keep the faith we will weather this storm!

# The Winners' Circle

## Upcoming Tournaments

**Saturday July 28th** Nite Light Event, 9:15pm Gun  
**Sat&Sun Jul 28-29<sup>th</sup>** Men's Senior Club Champ, TT  
**Thursday Aug 2<sup>nd</sup>** Senior Member Guest, 8:30am  
**Saturday August 4<sup>th</sup>** Couples Member/Guest, 12pm  
**Sat&Sun Aug 11-12<sup>th</sup>** Women's Senior Club Champ  
**Friday August 17th** Margarita Tasting, 5:30 Gun  
**Sat&Sun Aug 18-19<sup>th</sup>** Club Championship, 9am TT  
**Wednesday Aug 22<sup>nd</sup>** Men's Guest, 11:30 Gun  
**Saturday Sept 1<sup>st</sup>** Mixed Member/Memb, 12pm

## Men's Member/Member

A-Flight  
 1st Zach Scala/Zach Sullivan  
 2nd Taylor Dwyer/Evan Cody

B-Flight  
 1st Gross Ed Esposito/Rick Funaro  
 1st Net Dan Loewenstein/Don McCollum

C-Flight  
 1st Gross Steve Ludwin/Dave O'Connor  
 1st Net Doug Young/Rick Moran

D-Flight  
 1st Gross Pete Jorgensen/Stan Walkanowski  
 1st Net Dick Cody/Mike Zegarelli

E-Flight  
 1st Gross Winston Wachtel/Dave Lane  
 1st Net Gene Gass/Tony Reed

## Women's Member/Member

Gross  
 1st Kate Oppedisano/ Heidi Harkins  
 2nd Kathy Harkins/Donna Nevulis

Net  
 1st Jody Mcquiston/Pat Stack  
 2nd Mary Symanski/Debbie Cottrell

## President's Cup

Men's Dave Runyon  
 Women's Kris Youmans

## Women's Member Guest

A-Flight  
 1<sup>st</sup> Gross Betsy Drambour  
 Sue Delanoy  
 Laura Couch  
 Chan Lee

1<sup>st</sup> Net  
 Suzie Mansfield  
 Flo Liberatore  
 Sue Kahler  
 Cheryl Potter

B-Flight  
 1<sup>st</sup> Gross  
 Rayette Johnson  
 Diana Schwagger  
 Lauren Petraske  
 Pam Mantas

1<sup>st</sup> Net  
 Barb Krause  
 Margaret Kuss  
 Pat Joseph

## Men's Member Guest

Shootout winner  
 1<sup>st</sup> Mark Thornhill Jr  
 Kevin O'Leary

Bethpage flight  
 1<sup>st</sup> Mark Thornhill Jr, Kevin O'Leary  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Dave Fizer, Jay Taub

Pine Valley flight  
 1<sup>st</sup> Pat Hefferon, Bill Burt  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Ron Pedrick, Pete Bennice

Pebble Beach Flight  
 1<sup>st</sup> Steve Monnat, Bill Monnat  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Charlie Greenwood, Mickey Levernois

Oakmont flight  
 1<sup>st</sup> Tony Reed, Jeff Guido  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Jud Sabey, Dave Smith

Augusta flight  
 1<sup>st</sup> Bob Demarco, Ron Peretti  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Mike Farina, Tim Maciel

Shinnecock flight  
 1<sup>st</sup> Tim Provost, Dave Pentkowski  
 T-2<sup>nd</sup> Dick Cody, Gus Cody

Thanks to **Ed Lake** for the following contribution. We encourage all Members to send us appropriate material for the Fox, whether it be anecdotes, memories of BSCC in the past or just something golf related you want to share with your fellow Members

## At the Goodwill

*by Timothy Walsh*

Like crows tearing at roadkill,  
people rummage among the aisles  
and clothes bins,  
ransacking the discarded clutter of other lives  
for that special undiscovered something.

Beyond an army of tired shoes, you make your way  
to the back corner  
where golf clubs by the hundreds jut from barrels,  
shafts and clubheads jumbled helter-skelter.

Nearby, old golf bags are piled like clumsy sea creatures  
dead upon the sand.  
Splayed zippers and torn pockets full of old golf balls,  
crumpled scorecards, stubby pencils, and old tees...

Some clubs are still caked with mud,  
remnant of the day they were last played,  
orphaned by the terse calling card of death,  
forgotten in basements or garages long past the funeral,  
until they are dropped off, lifted from the trunks of cars  
with a pallbearer's decorum....

Clubs once cherished by men,  
magic implements to leverage the spirit,  
arcane as alchemists' weapons—  
Spalding Synchro-Dyned Top-Flite,  
Lynx Predator, Golden Ram,  
Wilson Strata-Bloc Cup Defender,  
MacGregor Oil Hardened Chieftain—  
each club someone's personal Excalibur  
elevating the soul with each dance-like swing,  
old woods, maple and persimmon, once  
lovingly cleaned and oiled,  
now grimy, cast off, seemingly dead.

But if you close your eyes, you can feel something—  
a low hum, diffuse as starlight—  
all the accumulated shot-concentration of decades  
stored in the clubs like batteries,  
the fire of long-dead golfers still smoldering  
in the grips and clubheads.

Bring an armful home. Scour them clean.  
Rub lemon oil into the wood, and mink oil  
onto the leather grips.  
Tomorrow, take them out on the course.  
Send the ball flying with a satisfying crack of wood,  
the club in your hand ecstatic as a blind man  
with restored sight.



Wilson Cup Defender Woods



Thanks to **Heidi Harkins** for the above picture. Please send your pictures to **wtucker2@nycap.rr.com** and if we get enough we'll send guest passes to the winners, as judged by an independent panel of undeniable artistic appreciation.





## *Passing the 19<sup>th</sup>*



*Tucker*

### **The Sweet Spot Isn't Always on the Clubface**

During my lifetime, I have lived in a variety of locales, including big cities (Toronto), medium sized cities (Greenville SC, London Ontario), towns (Anderson SC, downtown Saratoga), in the mountains of Jamaica, in a high rise apartment building and my current home, on a dead end street in the woods of Greenfield Center. I've done it all. Most of these locations were decided for me, whether it be a family move or a work relocation, but the decision to live where we do now had no determining factors other than the lifestyle we aspired to.

How our opinions change. Growing up and well into my 20's, harboring a bad case of the Golf Bug deep in my soul, I always thought my dream home would be on a golf course. What could be better than to sit on the back patio adjacent to the 16th hole, a brew in my hand, on a sunny day, watching my fellow golfers at play? How convenient it would be to simply walk out my back door near the end of the day and play a few holes whenever the urge tickled my fancy or just take the putter and get a little practice in on the green a few score yards from my back yard. I would play real estate development courses and walk past beautiful houses bordering the course and drool with envy.



So why, once I had a choice, did we pick a location where I not only can't see a golf course, I can't even see my neighbors?

Playing housing development courses, I began to notice that I seldom saw anyone out on their patios, brew in hand, watching me flail at the ball. What I did notice was signs urging me to bugger off if I even thought about chasing an errant shot into their yard. I saw curtained windows, frustrating my curiosity about the house's interior. I saw a total lack of privacy. As for the convenience of the course, I think the novelty wears off quickly. I used to go to Ocean City MD with seven other guys every year. We chose to bed down in an 8 person apartment over the Golf Shop on a Pete Dye course, with views of the course and practice areas. We talked about the convenience of going to the driving range whenever we wanted, or having an evening putting contest each day after our rounds until driven inside by darkness. Never happened.

Like all things in life, we have to have moderation. A life defined by golf and golf alone seemed to be a beautiful dream at one point in my life. I thought about my retirement and how I would play every day, getting my game honed to a thing of lesser ugliness, but now that I am retired, I find that I've played less than six times during the week in the past four months. I remember a former Member at BSCC who retired, played every day and made a significant change to his handicap. He went from a 7 to a 13 in the first year. I can only assume he lost the joy of playing through satiation. Why bear down when you'll be back every day?

So I've come full circle. Golf is a big part of my life, but it's not my entire life. I realize that for me, rationing out my time on the course and my exposure to the game makes it more special, ensuring a lasting love of The Game. If I ever lose that, I'm in big trouble.



My current solitude