



*Ballston Spa Country Club*

*Volume XIII Number 3*

# *The Fox*

## *President's Letter*

I would like to take this opportunity in my last letter to the FOX to congratulate Dave Runyon, Randy Alexander and Mike Zegarelli on their election to the Board of Directors at our annual Shareholders Meeting on Friday, May 20th. They are three very qualified individuals and I'm sure they will work hard to serve our membership.

I want to thank everyone for the support that you have provided me during the many years that I served on the Board. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to have had the opportunity to help to make BSCC a better place. I also want to thank those of you who have shared some very kind words with me. It means a great deal and I appreciate it very much.



I would be remiss if I did not thank all of the Board members that I have worked with over the years. I have been very fortunate to have served with a very dedicated and hard working group of individuals. It is because of their efforts that as a Board, we were able to achieve some great accomplishments and continue on the path to making BSCC as good as it can be.

Finally, I would like to thank Steve and Todd. Having such qualified professionals working for us is fabulous. They have always understood the constraints that we sometimes imposed on them and they have always been willing to share their ideas and work with the Board. I always felt that they had the same goals as the Board, to make BSCC the best.

Finally, I want to thank Laura for all of her hard work that goes on behind the scenes. Laura is the first person that many potential Members speak with about membership and she is such a supporter and promoter of our club. She has always been there when I or anyone from the Board has needed her support.

Sincerely,

*Rick Fumaro*

## *Membership Report*

*Tucker*

Membership will be down this year, probably by about 10-12 Members. Talking to other clubs, we are in good shape in comparison to their situations. The weather and ongoing high unemployment rate are important factors in this decrease.

One of the questions brought up at the Stockholders' Meeting dealt with the possibility of recruiting new Members from Global Foundries. While the prospect of having 1,400 new jobs in the area looks good on the surface, we have to look closer at what this really means to BSCC.

The National Golf Foundation tells us that core golfers make up 7% of our adult population. This appears to mean GF offers us about 100 potential Members. They define "avid" as a golfer who plays 25+ rounds/year. Most players who join a (semi)private club play much more than this, so the percentage of potential Members falls to say, 4-5% or 40-50. We now have to share this number with Edison, McGregor and other courses, so although we are positioned well, we can't expect to get more than about 20 new Members from Global Foundries. Please remember that our Trial Membership Program closes July 15th for 2011.

June 2011

Ballston Spa Country Club

The Fox



## Superintendent's Report

Steve Solsky

As you know, this past month has been very wet. It just does not want to stop raining. I think we only had one five day stretch of good weather where we did not get any rain.

As you can imagine, it is very difficult to maintain the course when it is extremely wet. My crew and I do our best to keep up with the mowing, but I am sure you have found some very long rough out there. I apologize for this and promise that we will get on our regular mowing schedules when those areas and the entire course dries out.

That brings me to my first point. Everyone has been great this year about keeping golf carts off the fairways. Please keep up the effort and say something to other players when you see them drive through YOUR very wet fairways. I know you have seen myself and my crew on the fairways with the mowers but, it is pretty difficult to mow the fairways without driving the fairway mowers on them. Our machines have large flotation tires on them and also have down pressure on the five reel mowers. This makes the surface area touching the grass very wide. The entire width of the machine is holding the machine up and keeping it from rutting the fairway. We can go through a soft spot in the fairway better than a very narrow golf cart tire. I guess my point is that even though you see us out there mowing fairways, please do not assume that you can drive down the fairways with your golf cart. Before you tee off, check in the pro shop to see if it is cart path only.



This past week, I talked with a few Members and they commented on how good all this rain is for the golf course. Yes, water is very important for the golf course as well as any plant. But saturated conditions like this are actually the worst thing for the golf course. Springtime saturation conditions hurt the course in two ways. One is compaction. Think about our wet greens (1,2,6,11). Just being on the soaked greens with the mower and people causes compaction. I am sure you have noticed that these greens are bumpier than others because of all the footprints. There really isn't anything that we can do about these extremely wet conditions and the compaction. What the greens need is for us to stay off them but not walking on them is really not an option. I will use our deep tine aerifier, verticut, and top dress system after everything dries out to help alleviate this problem, but for now we are just going to have to play on what we have.



Another major problem that springtime saturated conditions cause is poor root development. Springtime root development is very important for the health of the plant. The healthier you can get the plant in the spring, the longer it can withstand harsh summertime heat

and drought conditions. The plant will not extend its roots down very far if all the water it needs is at the surface.

Perfect conditions would be some rain every fourth or fifth day, enough rain to keep the soil moist, but not saturated. Of course, in the ideal golf course world, the rest of the time would be sunny conditions and temperatures in the 70s.





# *From the Golf Shop*

*Todd Manderson*

As we get into the midst of the season, it is time to think about our golf game now. One thing to think about is your short game. I watch many people over on the practice range and the first club that many people bring out is the driver. Although the driver sets up the hole, it is the club that is used the least other than the 3 iron. I am trying to let everyone know that in order to lower your scores and your handicap, you should practice your short game as much as possible. A good short game will help you score well. It is very difficult to hit all 18 greens in regulation and when you do miss those greens, if you get the ball up and down then your score will still be ok. As the US Open approaches, the tour players will have to have a fabulous short game in order to survive the grueling test that the USGA will put in front of them. So do your mind a favor and practice those chip, flop, bump and other short shots to lower your scores and give your mind a break. Many of us think that when we miss a green in regulation that we are going to make a bogey or more. Good luck and if you need any help with this. Jeff or myself are here to help you.

## **Men's Member Guest Tournament**

I realize that it is difficult to handle that the Member Guest Event is already upon us. With the recent wet weather and the fact that many of us have not played very much golf yet this season, but it is. The dates are June 23-25<sup>th</sup>. We are accepting signups in the golf shop and although the event fee has not yet been determined, it will be by the time that everyone has received the Fox for June. Don't hesitate, this event is a fun filled 3 days of golf for you that will create memories to last a lifetime.

## **Lottery Times**

We need your help in the golf shop for the future. We would like to remind everyone of the guidelines of the weekend lottery system. All the tickets that are to be submitted either online or in the golf shop must be completed correctly.

First, the guidelines are as follows:

- \* Only 2 guests and 2 Members are allowed in a group before 11am.
  - \* Only groups of 3 or 4 players are allowed to play before 11am.
  - \* Corporate members are not allowed to make a time before 11am on Saturday and Sunday.
  - \* All tickets must have 3 or 4 names on them and must have 3 time choices on them in order for them to be valid.
  - \* Tee times that are given in the lottery and then a no call or no show for that time will result in the last tee time the following week.
  - \* The lottery is done on Wednesday evenings at 5:30 pm and no golf shop staff member can fill out a lottery ticket for any member for any reason.
  - \* Please have your names on each ticket so names are not duplicated for any confusion while doing the lottery.
- We need your help to allow this to go smoother. We have a starter on the weekends and can pair up singles as they come available. Thanks for your help and let's get this correct so the rest of the summer can run smoothly.

## **Golf Tip**

I recently had a player ask me what to do in a certain situation on the golf course where they needed to take an unplayable lie. There are 3 options with an unplayable lie. They are as follows:

- 1) Take a 1 stroke penalty and move the ball 2 club lengths no closer to the hole, drop the ball and play on.
- 2) Take a 1 stroke penalty and go back as far as you like keeping the point between where the ball originally lies and the flagstick lined up and then drop the ball and play on.
- 3) Take a 1 stroke penalty and go back to where the ball was originally played from, drop at that point and play on.



I hope this helps when Playing by the Rules.



# Green Committee Report



*Sue Kahler*

Spring project day was another big success. Thanks to all the Members and Owners who volunteered a few hours of their time to making our course better. The biggest effort was made to improve the area around the restroom on the 6<sup>th</sup> hole. New plants, sod and railroad ties were installed and the whole area looks beautiful. It will be up to you to keep that area looking great by keeping your carts off the grass. Flower beds were edged and mulched and a few painting projects were completed.

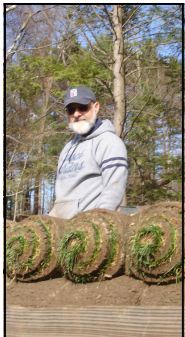
Steve and crew with the help of Steve Ludwin removed the landscape fabric from under the rocks around the pond on hole #11 and installed a small amount of sod on the top edge of the pond. This is an effort to improve the drainage around that green at a very, very minimal cost.

As you know we have seen an abundance of rain this spring. Because of that, we have had to keep carts off the fairways most days. Thanks to everyone for your understanding and adherence to this policy. While it would be most beneficial for the course to not have carts on the fairways at all, we do allow the 90° rule when the fairways are dry. Please be aware of the cart policy each day you play. Even if you are not riding in a cart, it's up to each Member to keep the best interests of the course in mind and to remind riders if they see someone who may not be adhering to the day's policy. It's your golf course and one day with carts going into areas that are saturated can lead to weeks of recovery.

Based on the feedback that I've received I think everyone is very pleased with the condition of our course this spring. Steve has done a remarkable job given the amount of rainfall and inconsistent temperatures. Let's just hope the rest of the summer brings sunny skies and warm (not too hot) temperatures.

As always, please see me or a green committee member if you have any questions or concerns. Please fix all ball marks and make sure you repair your divots.

May all your days be sunny and your bogeys be few.



Thanks to everyone who  
Helped out on Project Day



# House/Restaurant Report



*Dick Cody*

On Mother's Day 225 Members and their guests enjoyed an excellent brunch at the Club. The first theme night of the season was in mid-May and 60 members and guests were treated to a true Italian meal at a reasonable price. Before you read this article, Panza's and Saratoga Brewery will have provided us with our first hops tasting and food evening. Watch for the future special theme evenings throughout the season and enjoy great food, beverage and camaraderie.

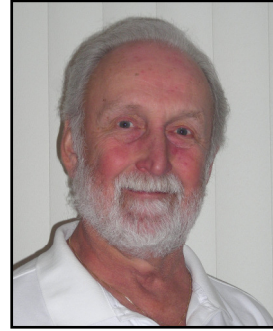
Make sure you stop at the Snack Shack early and often. This year, we are sure you will find more consistency with the hours as well as excellent and very welcoming staff. As we said in last month's article unless we support the shack, it is difficult to justify keeping it open. The hours for the Snack Shack and cart are:

Shack	Weekend	8am – 12pm
Cart	Sat	11am – 5pm
	Sun	12am – 5pm
	As needed for leagues and tournaments	

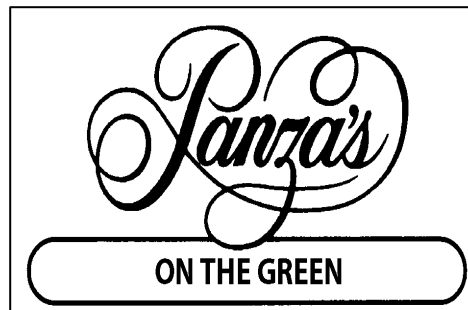
Our chef Jim Rhoades is interested in your comments. We should all feel free to share comments with Jim or any of the staff, a Board member or Rosanne Greenwood who will channel any comments to the Board.

The clubhouse, office/pro shop and maintenance buildings are now secured with surveillance cameras that monitor our buildings and the parking lot 24 hours a day.

Thanks to all of our volunteers who donate their time and talent to maintaining our buildings.



*Bob Mishanin*



## **June 11, 2011**

Join us for a true Southern States BBQ!

Enjoy two different styles of barbecue cooking at a dinner with all the trimmings. You'll get chicken, ribs, and brisket. Sides of coleslaw, mac & cheese, roasting ears (corn on the cob) and sweet tea. Top it off with berries and cream for dessert for just \$15.95. Reservations recommended.

## **June 17, 2011**

Our annual German Buffet – featuring potato pancakes, wurst plates, sauerbraten, German hot potato salad, pork schnitzel, chocolate cake, and a great German beer. \$15.95 Reservations recommended.

Watch for other events – beer & drink specials, lunch & dinner specials, raffles and porch parties

Please note that there are open dates available for your own special events and outings – just ask Jim.

BALLSTON SPA COUNTRY CLUB  
STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING  
MAY 20, 2011

The meeting was called to order by President Rick Funaro at 7:02 p.m. All Board members were present. Rick gave an opening statement regarding the Club.

Al Squire made a motion to approve the 2010 Minutes and waive the reading of the 2010 Minutes. Kate Oppedisano seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a voice vote of the members present.

A quorum was established.

Al Squire made a motion to ratify and approve all of the actions the Board has done this year. Carl Jahn seconded it and it was approved by the stockholders.

Nominations for 3 new Board members were made. Each nominee spoke a few words explaining their campaign positions.

Randy Alexander was nominated by Al Squire and seconded by Rick Funaro was nominated by Maxine Tucker and seconded by Sue Mansfield. Carl Jahn was nominated by Joe Kerbelis seconded by Jim Gerson. David Runyon was nominated by David Ostrum and seconded by Harry Talman. Michael Zegarelli was nominated by Dick Cody and seconded by Mark Cacuzzo.

Al Squire moved nominations be closed and Jim Orkins seconded. All were in favor.

The ballots were cast and collected. They were counted by Mabel Siler, Joyce Blau and Jerry Carr.

#### Committee Reports

Treasurer's Report: Bruce Kay stated we finished in the black for 2010. We ended with \$56,000. Membership went up, greens fees went down and the restaurant revenue went down. Corporate memberships went up by \$5,000. For 2011 we are short on membership dues and corporate memberships. Monday tournaments are up. For now spending will be held to a minimum. It is too early to tell about green fees and cart fees. There is one lifetime membership for sale.

Membership: Tucker stated we are in good shape membership-wise in comparison to other clubs. One-quarter of our new memberships this year are "trial memberships." We also have military memberships. This year we are innovating 9 different marketing plans to increase green fee revenue. We lost 60 members this year. Today we have gained 43 new members. We will probably end up 10-12 below last year.

House: Bob Miskanin stated there were no large projects in the Clubhouse. We have added security cameras on the buildings. We have done work on the outside bathroom and work downstairs in the Clubhouse and the kitchen ceiling. Everything has run well so far this year.

Restaurant: Dick Cody stated the membership needs to support the "theme nights." The "Shack" has been a financial loser but it will be open more consistently this year and we need the membership's support.

Greens: Susan Kahler stated she is very proud of the state of our course and it is 95% done by Steve and also his staff. All the snow mold he put down last fall worked wonderfully. Steve got great deals on some equipment for the Club. #6 project on the bathroom is beautiful and Max Tucker lead the project. The Amy Upjohn Fund supported almost all the funding. #11 Green had work on the rocks around the pond/green. The next project is to remove the large trees behind #7 green and #8 back tee. There will be new plantings there which have already been purchased. Sue asked for volunteers to plant them next week.

Rick reminded the stockholders that Steve has a blog on our webpage and he keeps it updated on course conditions and projects.

Tournaments: Dave Fizer stated the internal tournaments are going well so far. Every Monday is booked or double-booked for external tournaments.

Rick opened the floor to questions. Ginny Charbonneau asked Bruce about the Club's loan. She also asked Sue if a path could be made to the hole #6 bathroom thru the sod. Sue explained that the foot traffic to and from the bathroom probably wouldn't wear a path in the sod.



Fran Wayand asked why the women can't have their own tees. The men's senior tees are combined with the women's. Susan Kahler stated it has been discussed in the Greens Committee many times. It was pointed out by Maxine Tucker that the red tees are not "women's tees", but "forward tees". Sue said in their last discussion they didn't feel our tees are large enough to have 4 places on the tees. She will bring it up to the committee again.

Carl Jahn asked Tucker what the retention rate is now. Tucker stated we have low retention in students, weekend PM and military memberships. Most people leave due to finances or health and it is hard to give a number. It is a very subjective number.

Jan Holik wanted clarification on Bruce's statement saying membership is down and Tucker says it is good. Tucker explained that we will probably be down \$20 – 25,000 in membership dues, but that compared to other clubs in the area, we're doing very well. Jan also commented that the restaurant has a good product but we don't make profit on the outside tournaments. He wants to know why the Club shouldn't get some income since we have to keep up the building. Dick Cody explained that we wanted to get a reputable restaurateur here, which we have done with Panza's and to keep them here. If the restaurant makes money this year we will re-evaluate our contract at the end of this year and get a new number.

Sue Mansfield asked Tucker about contacting Global Foundries. Tucker said he is presently working on contacting them. We cannot expect a huge number from them but we may possibly reach 375 members.

Harold Townley stated we can't get a good restaurant unless they can make money. If they're making money we can ask for more revenue.

Dick Cody made a motion to keep the same ballot counters next year and Carl Jahn seconded. It. All were in favor.

Rick thanked Dick Cody for his 6 years of service and Mary Law Powell for her term on Board.

Elections results: David Runyan- 118 votes  
Michael Zegarelli 97 votes.  
Randy Alexander 97 votes.  
Rick Funaro 84 votes.  
Carl Jahn 78 votes.

The Board will have a short meeting after this adjournment to elect officers.

Larry D'Alberto told the stockholders that Bill Swietnicki recently passed away and there was a moment of silence for him.

Dave Fizer made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Bob Miskanin seconded it. The meeting was adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Law Powell  
Secretary.

### *New Board Officers Election Results*

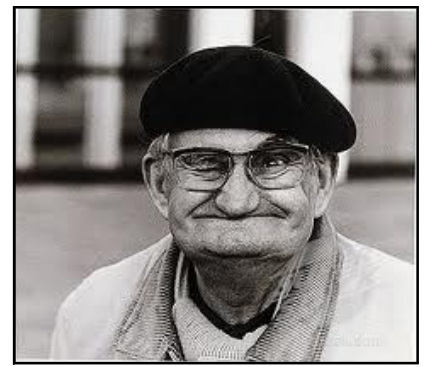
At a meeting held immediately after the Stockholders' Meeting, the election of the new Board officers was conducted.

The results were: President: William Tucker  
Vice president: Sue Kahler  
Treasurer: Bruce Kay  
Secretary: Keith McNab

The Business Office can now provide Notary service to members thanks to Laura McNeil completing the training course and passing the examination for qualification as a Notary Public.



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



*Tucker*

A 75 year old golfer with failing eyesight takes his 85 year old buddy, who has 20/20 vision, with him on his round, to tell him where his ball goes. "Did you see my drive?" he says on the first tee. "Yep", the octogenarian says. "Well, where'd it go?" the golfer asks. "I forget", the buddy answers.

Ha.... Ha.

I don't know about you, but I'm about up to my cellulite in humorous reminders of how ancient I am. Every day I get emails from "friends" who send me quizzes, testing my so-called memory about wax Coke bottles and Howdy Doody characters, or "50 ways you can tell you're old" lists. I deal with the ageing thing often enough on a personal level without being bludgeoned with this sort of dungeon hilarity.

Ageing is dealt with in various ways, we're told by geezerologists. Denial, acceptance, etc., are cited as defense mechanisms in the war to turn back, or at least trip up, Old Man Time. As Bette Davis put it, "Old age is no place for sissies."

Though we talk about "The Big Four-Oh" and other birthday milestones, ageing occurs gradually, creeping insidiously into every facet of our existence; it's difficult to measure the rot, so to speak. But wait! No! As golfers we can, year by year, put a number on our death walk. One year we commonly hit an 8 iron on our second shot into #7. Next year a 7 iron is landing five yards short.

The Denialists offer up wildly entertaining explanations which ignore our body's plodding disintegration. Drivel like, "I'm not shorter off the tee, it's just that continental drift is causing our golf holes to be stretched", This would, conversely I would think, make courses on the other side of the world shorter. Apparently, all I have to do to get my length back is move to Mogadishu. Acceptists are even more disgusting, quoting homespun crap like, "We don't stop playing because we get old, we get old because we stop playing." Or "Age is an issue of mind over matter. If you don't mind, it doesn't matter." Gag me.



The truth is, your flexibility is waning and your flab is waxing. Your muscles are putrefying and your hand-eye coordination is going south permanently, not just on your winter pilgrimages to The Villages. You now have seven hybrids in your bag, and just yesterday found yourself asking why they haven't brought out a wedgebrid. Decades ago, some of your best rounds were your first of the season and you could stride confidently onto the first tee, not a stiff muscle anywhere, right out of the parking lot. Now it takes until October just to get into mid-season form, such as it is.

Aside from the corporeal, there's the mental disintegration. You lose your concentration, your mental discipline, earlier in the round each year. By the fifteenth hole you're spending more time wondering about whether you should have a post-round Guinness or just head

home and hook up to the intravenous, than the more immediate question of what club you should be using on this particular green. Course management decisions are predicated on how much effort will be needed on your next shot if you miss the 5 hybrid long into the short rough, rather than the 6 hybrid into that deep, inaccessible bunker short of the green.

Ah, well. Death and taxes may be inevitable, but still the human spirit lives on. At the age of 30 we are full of spunk and moxie and want to win the club championship. At 70 we still want to win the title, but know we can't.

Sad indeed, but we shouldn't regret growing old. It's a privilege denied to too many.

