

# Scranton Canoe Club

www.scrantoncanoeclub.com

April 2013

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### **Commodore**

Jim Mecca

### **Vice Commodore**

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### **House Services/Flowers**

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### **Membership**

Rich Buckley

### **Publicist/Archivist**

Sean McDonough

### **Purser**

Dick Schwoebel

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## Commodore Corner

Fellow Canoe Club Members –

Well we're at the point of the renovation where the question about the opening is down to days instead of months or weeks. The contractors are putting the final touches on the exterior and the painters and carpet people are getting the interior completed. Everyone who has stopped by is impressed with the design and the quality of the project. May 1<sup>st</sup> will be the start of a new beginning in the history of the Canoe Club. We will still have a bit of landscaping to complete, but that will take shape as the weather gets warmer and starts to cooperate with a growing season. One addition to the project that was not in the original design is the new outdoor patio. It will give us all a place to gather for drinks or conversation and also a place to sit and have a drink if anyone is waiting for a table for lunch or dinner. (Don't forget about those reservations for dinner.) The kitchen will be up and running and before you know it, the porch will be full of activity enjoying the new menu that our Executive Chef, Jeanele Ransom, has put together for the Spring and early Summer season.

As you all are aware, the course has been open since April 1<sup>st</sup> and if you had a chance to play, you'll agree that the fairways and greens are in great shape thanks to the efforts of Pat Healey and his crew. The first tournament of the season, the Opening Stag, is scheduled for Apr. 28<sup>th</sup>. Check the Pro Shop for more information.

And finally, I would be remiss if I and the rest of the Board of Directors didn't thank all of you for your patience and cooperation during this renovation period and the delay in the opening of the Clubhouse. We experienced unforeseen obstacles during the initial phase of construction, but once the project got underway, Robert Farrell and his crew went above and beyond the call to have the renovation completed by May 1<sup>st</sup>. The Board is sure that this will be one of the most exciting years for the members of the Canoe Club.

Respectfully,

Jim Mecca – Commodore

## **SECOND ANNUAL PA. WOUNDED WARRIOR TOURNAMENT**

The Second Annual Pa. Wounded Warrior Tournament is going to be held again this year on Monday, May 20, 2013, at the Scranton Canoe Club. Last years event raised \$4500 to help Pa. veterans and their families. The cost is \$80 per player for a Captain and mate format. Entry fee covers lunch, dinner, refreshments and prizes. Anyone wishing to enter is asked to contact Randy Vaskas at the Pro Shop at 378-9982 or see any of the Committee Members: Rich Buckley, Dan Cassaro, Ed Connors, Jamie Kresge or Jim Mecca.

Hope to see you all there.

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### **GOLF COURSE**

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE GOLF COURSE WILL BE CLOSED ON APRIL 29<sup>TH</sup> (WEATHER PERMITTING) FOR AERIFICATION OF OUR GREENS.

Patrick D. Healey, Jr.  
Golf Course Superintendent

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### **MEMBERSHIP**

As of this writing in late April, I am pleased to announce that our membership is now **FULL**. Our limit for active members is set in the by-laws at 210. The limit for clubhouse members as set by the board of directors is 55. We should all be proud that the Canoe Club is the only club in the area that has had this kind of increase in popularity and membership!

So this begs the question of where do we go from here? Our newly renovated clubhouse will be open shortly. It has a bigger kitchen with increased capability. Should we consider increasing the limit on membership? Such a move would continue to improve the club's finances... what do you think?

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### **PUBLICIST**

The 2013 Scranton Canoe Club Handbook is at the printers and once they have completed printing it, a copy will be provided to all members. The Newsletter can also be found by clicking the SCC Handbook button on the Welcome page of the website, [www.scrantoncanoecub.com](http://www.scrantoncanoecub.com). As events are planned for this year, they will be added to the Events tab on the website. The Canoe Club will also continue offering advertisement space for member's or employers of our members. For details regarding advertising, please contact Sean McDonough, Publicist, at [smcdonough@dlplaw.com](mailto:smcdonough@dlplaw.com).

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## ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE

Since the inception of the "Kentucky Derby Party" ten years ago, the Canoe Club has absorbed the cost of the event. However, the party has grown from 25 or 30 people to over 125 last year. Because of this overwhelming response, this year there will be a minimal charge of \$5.00 per person. The Derby Party will run from 4:00 p.m. to the completion of the Run for the roses, usually around 6:30 p.m. Beer, wine and the famous "Mint Juleps" will be served along with hot and cold hors d'oeuvres. Anyone interested in joining in the festivities and getting in the pool can contact Dan Cassaro at (570) 378-2922.

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### Kentucky Derby Update

Hi Gang,

In a little more than a few weeks America will hear that famous cry "And down the stretch they come." When this occurs I hope to see you all at our 10<sup>th</sup> year event of the Kentucky Derby Party.

I wasn't sure that we would have our club house open in time to have the party. However, thanks to Robert Farrell and his son James, Hank Jellock, George Norkaitis, Ed Buchholz, Vince Riggi, and their crews, who never seemed to stop working in order to complete their target date of a May 1<sup>st</sup> opening. Please keep in mind that the Derby Party is Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup>.

We owe these dedicated workers a vote of thanks for an outstanding job on this much needed renovation. For those who have not seen this magnificent transformation it will knock your socks off.

Now more about the party, most of the members and guests start arriving around 4:30 pm and the race goes off a little after 6:00 pm. Beer, wine and mint julep's will be ready for all, along with hors d'oeuvres soon to follow.

For all new members who may not be familiar about the party, we have a \$20 race pool that you may enter right up to race time. When you buy into the pool you will automatically be entered into the triple-crown races (Kentucky Derby, Preakness, and Belmont Stakes). Ladies please wear your prettiest hat. IT'S A TRADITION. There is one change this year. A small fee will be charged because the party has grown so large from a handful of people, ten years ago, to approximately 130 last year. Check the newsletter for more details about the cost.

Our party will be run in the same manner as 2012. Attached is my final report that was posted in last year's newsletter after the final race was run. It will explain how the party was conducted and also list the names of last year's pool winners.

By the way, pertaining to drawing, 38 of the 40 people collected their winnings, however, two people (I assume they were guests) still have not come forward to collect their \$100 prize. Their names appeared in the newsletter and after inquiring as to who these two people are, they could not be located. Their names are Frank Hipline and Joe Rzewski. If anyone knows these individuals please have them contact me. If I don't hear from them by race time the \$200 will be put in this year's race pool.

Because we are opening in May instead of our usual April 1<sup>st</sup> opening, I lost 30 days of not seeing all of you and collecting your \$20. Time is fleeting so please get to me quickly if you want to be in the pool. If you think you won't be seeing me please call me at home and I will add you to the pool list, and that money will be included in the final two races.

Pauline was kind enough to make me an alphabetized list of all 124 people who were in last year's pool. I carry this list with me, at all times, so it will be easy to check your name when you pay me.

NOTE: Please remember, if I do not hear from you before the Kentucky Derby Race goes off you will not be entered in the pool.

See you soon,

Dan Cassaro  
(Home phone 570-378-2922)

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### Kentucky Derby & Triple Crown Review

Hi Everyone,

From my observations everyone seems to be having a great time this year and I trust our good times will continue to the very last day in October. I personally wish that our UNIQUE club could stay open to the end of the year so we could enjoy one another's company for a few more months. Wishes do come true and maybe it will become a reality at some future date. The purpose of this letter is to inform everyone about the results of the three great races.

As expected we broke the record again this year, our NINTH, when 124 people entered the \$20 pool which totaled \$2,480 of cash to cover the bets. Approximately 130 people attended this Kentucky Derby Party with enthusiasm and high hopes that a big purse could be won, along with enjoying the best hors d'oeuvres and drinks.

As in the past years, I was accompanied by Stan Malecki and Phil Whitbeck to place the bets for the Derby and would you believe it, we hit two trifectas for a total of \$3,064. As noted in the May Newsletter that money was held back to be added to any additional money won from the Preakness and Belmont Stakes races. When the Preakness rolled around I bet approximately \$600 and hit three Trifecta's (I'LL HAVE ANOTHER, BODEMEISTER & CREATIVE CAUSE) and almost fell over when the tickets paid \$35 each, so we lost almost \$500. I guess everybody in the US bet the same horses I did. When the Belmont Stakes was being run in June, I just had to go with I'LL HAVE ANOTHER and I bet the allotted money keying on that horse. However, 15 minutes after I made the bets I'LL HAVE ANOTHER was scratched. I then had to change all the bets and was fortunate to win a Trifecta for \$200 and a Superfecta for \$950. When all was said and done we had approximately \$4,200 for the drawing that was held on Wednesday night on July 11, 2012.

Before we had the drawing we gave Jeanelle and her staff a \$160 gratuity for the good service they provided at the Kentucky Derby Party. Inadvertently I forgot to make an announcement to make sure that everyone leaves a tip for the wait staff. Jeanele, Chris, Rainelle, and Kristen each received \$40. The rest of the money was distributed to the 40 winners who received \$100 each, leaving just enough for the Cassaro's to have Micky D's lunch.

Before I close I would like to mention several things that were done in order to make this the best party ever. First, the big screen TV from the men's locker room was set up in the dance hall, which made it better to view the race. Thanks to Robert Farrell for his assistance. We hope to implement a better sound system next year so all of us can hear the race call above the noise of the crowd.

Second, the \$10 blind draw pool (PICK YOU OWN HORSE) was a huge success with \$1,200 being collected and paid back on a basic WIN, PLACE, and SHOW format. WIN paid \$100, PLACE paid \$60 and SHOW paid \$40. This could

not have been accomplished without the help of Jamie Kresge, Stan Malecki, and my girl Pauline who collected and distributed the winnings. Thanks to all of you.

#### PICK YOUR OWN HORSE POOL WINNERS

\$100

Dan Cassaro  
Erwin Schneider  
Dave Rees  
Robert Riley  
Bob Jenkins (Imposter)  
Mike Valle

\$60

Rachel Winebrake  
Charlie Barrett  
Mick Mulrooney  
Robert Riley  
Frank Hepglin  
Paul Wendolowski

\$40

Jamie Kresge  
Ron Alpert  
Ken Porzucek  
Ken Porzucek  
Al Nicholls  
Paul Wendolowski

#### \$100 KENTUCKY DERBY WINNERS

Charlie Barrett  
Alex Behr  
Ed Bucholz  
Ralph Brunori  
Laurie Callahan  
Dan Cassaro  
Jack & Pat Chipak  
Ed Conners  
Frank Dinola  
Ann Evans

PJ Farrell  
Tom & Gerri Ferguson  
Bob Gow  
Frank Hepglin  
Joe Kazista  
Jeff Kester  
Steve & Marie King  
Jamie Kresge  
Eloise Labassi  
Tony Litwin

Brad McAndrew  
Joe McGrath  
Michael Muela  
Sabe Naro  
Al Nicholls  
George Norkitis  
Carol Oliver  
Joe Oliver  
Carl Pazzaglia  
Dave Rees, Jr

Rich Regard  
Joe Ryozewski  
Mark Scappatura  
Larry Simon  
Pete Van Fleet  
Chris Van Horn  
Phil Whitbeck  
Jason Wimmer  
Pete Winebrake  
Bob Zaleski

That's it until next year. Hey Hon, I can't believe we got Sc#@ed out of this year's vacation. Oh well, you guys will pay for it next year **BIG TIME!**

Love Ya guys.

Danny C.

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#### A NOTE FROM THE DINING ROOM .....

Hello everyone! Welcome back to the new and improved Scranton Canoe Club! As you can tell there have been many renovations done to the inside and outside of the clubhouse. The kitchen is much larger which will be used for more food prep and to put out more dinners. Most of the kitchen staff is returning back as well as the awesome wait staff. Our new Sous Chef is Norm Illing. Norm and I both studied Culinary Arts at Keystone College. He previously worked at DaVincis by the lake for the past 8 years and is excited to bring some of his ideas to the table! We are starting this season off with a brand new spring inspired menu. We will also have dessert menus that are filled with delicious concoctions from our pastry chef Hollie Turner. Along with the set desserts we will have seasonal desserts. So keep your eye out for these delicious treats!

As you all know the club is filled pretty much to capacity with members. It's going to be a busy summer, which we are ready for! The only thing that I will advise that you as members do is please call to make reservations any time you are planning on coming for lunch or dinner. We have the best seating available on the lake and it fills up fast. If you are planning on coming for dinner please call a day or two ahead at the least to make sure you have your seat for the porch. It helps us prepare for what the night is

going to bring, so we can successfully staff. Also if you do decide to come for dinner without a reservation, there is seating down on the dock or the new patio to wait and have a cocktail.

Some of the new options for the menu are: Beef Tenderloins Sliders, Truffle Butter Popcorn, Thai Chickpea Burger, Indian turkey wrap, Stuffed Piglet, Bone-in Chicken Thighs, Greek Marinated Shrimp, Bacon Cheddar Ranch Waffle Fries & much more. I am super excited to get this season going as well as I'm sure you all are as well. So just please remember to call ahead for reservations and we will see you all very soon!

Executive Chef,  
Jeanele Ransom

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**ATTENTION LADIES OF THE SCRANTON CANOE CLUB**

The WGO had their opening luncheon on Thursday, April 18<sup>th</sup> and took up a collection to help with decorating our beautiful new clubhouse. We would like to give all ladies the opportunity to donate to help us make our clubhouse welcoming and comforting.

Please make checks payable to "WGO" and send them to our treasurer, Pat Fairall Chipak, at 439 Blue Heron Lane, Lake Winola, PA 18625

Your donation will be greatly appreciated for many years to come.

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**ALL LADIES ARE WELCOME TO JOIN THE WOMEN'S GOLF ORGANIZATION AS GOLFING MEMBERS OR SOCIAL MEMBERS. WE PLAY GOLF ON THURSDAY MORNINGS. SOCIAL MEMBERS CAN ENJOY OUR SPECIAL EVENTS.**

**DUES ARE: \$35.00 FOR GOLFERS and \$25.00 FOR SOCIAL MEMBERS**

Call Mary Murphy Fox if you have any questions or mail your check to Pat Fairall Chipak at the above address. Golf will be played every Thursday morning beginning April 25<sup>th</sup>.

**LADIES, PLEASE BE SURE THAT WHEN YOU SEND YOUR CHECKS IN, YOU LABEL THEM AS EITHER "DONATION" OR "DUES." THANK YOU.**

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Dear Members,

The following is an article that I recently read which I thought you might enjoy.

Thanks,

Patrick Healey  
Golf Course Superintendent

## Forks Join Bluegrass in Education of Masters Greenskeeper

*By Michael Buteau - Apr 11, 2013*

Before Marsh Benson mastered the art of fairway grooming as superintendent of Augusta National Golf Club, he first had to learn how to set a table properly.

That was part of his course work in Penn State (50935MF) University's turf science program, where students study everything from the proper height to mow Kentucky bluegrass to which forks and glasses are used for a formal place setting.

For the first time, the State College, Pennsylvania, school has produced all three superintendents for this year's U.S.-based major golf tournaments -- the Masters, which began this morning in Augusta, Georgia; the U.S. Open; and the PGA Championship. At Penn State, Benson was schooled by Joseph Duich, a man who stressed that proper comportment was part of the job and force students to take an etiquette course.

"Mrs. Franz; I can't believe I still remember her name," Darren Davis, a 1989 Penn State graduate, former Augusta National grounds crew employee and superintendent of Olde Florida Golf Club in Naples, Florida, said in a telephone interview. "It was such an aggravating class. Many students hated it and begged him to get rid of it, but he knew that how we presented ourselves was huge. If you can't talk to the CEO of Ford, you can't work at a place like Augusta. I still have my notes from that class."

### Opening Shots

The 77th Masters began this morning under a cloudy sky with former champions Arnold Palmer, Jack Nicklaus and Gary Player hitting the ceremonial first tee shots.

Larry Mize, the 1987 Masters champion and an Augusta native, made the tournament's first birdie and is among a group of players tied for the early lead.

Top-ranked Tiger Woods, a four-time Masters champion and this year's pre-tournament favorite at 7-2 odds, is scheduled to start his first round at 10:45 a.m. local time. Three-time Masters champion Phil Mickelson has a 1:30 p.m. tee time, with Rory McIlroy of Northern Ireland following him in the next-to-last group.

Including this year's Masters, U.S. Open and PGA, 10 of 16 major championships dating back to the 2008 Masters will have been conducted with a Penn State-educated superintendent in charge of the course.

The school's two-year Golf Course Turf Management Program, the oldest such curriculum of its kind, also produced Augusta National assistant superintendent Brad Owen, who did his Penn State internship at Augusta.

Benson and Owen declined to be interviewed, according to club spokesman Steve Ethun.

### Penn State

Matt Shaffer, who oversees Merion Golf Club, site of this year's U.S. Open in Ardmore, Pennsylvania, and Jeff Corcoran, superintendent of PGA Championship host Oak Hill in Rochester, New York, also studied at Penn State, as did Curtis Tyrell at Medinah Country Club, host of last year's Ryder Cup matches outside Chicago.

“A lot of the students coming in, their end goal is to host the U.S. Open or become a superintendent at a top club,” said John Kaminski, who has overseen the 56-year-old program since 2009. “We can say, ‘Look, our alumni are there and if you work hard and put in your time, that could potentially be you.’”

Kaminski, 38, said Benson was among the students learning etiquette as well as turf science during his time at Penn State, which was chartered in 1855 (AL185) as the Farmers’ High School.

### **Biggest Program**

With about 150 students in Penn State’s two- and four-year campus-based programs and “hundreds” of others taking courses online, Kaminski said the school has the largest turf science curriculum in the U.S. Mark Kuhns, who cares for the grounds at New Jersey’s Baltusrol Golf Club and is a former president of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, is a 1977 graduate of Penn State’s program.

Kuhns hosted the 1994 U.S. Open at Pennsylvania’s Oakmont and 2005 PGA Championship at New Jersey’s Baltusrol.

Course superintendents make, on average, \$82,573 a year, according to their industry group.

While Benson and Owen are among Penn State’s most high- profile superintendent alums, the school isn’t alone when it comes to producing marquee grass groomers.

New Jersey’s Rutgers University educated Glenn Burton, who developed the Tifway 419 Bermuda Grass hybrids, known as Tif grasses. They cover more golf courses than any other types of grass in the southeastern U.S., including Augusta National.

### **Rutgers Grass**

During the Masters, Augusta National’s Bermuda fairways, which remain dormant through the winter months and early spring, are covered by green rye grass developed at Rutgers. Every April, students from Rutgers, Penn State and other programs descend upon Augusta for hands-on learning.

The Augusta experience, Merion’s Shaffer said, might be just as important as the time spent at Penn State.

In 1985, with 13 years of experience as a superintendent at a rural Pennsylvania course, Shaffer applied for a job at a new club in North Carolina. The Wade Hampton Golf Club, ranked No. 20 on Golf Digest (3319) magazine’s U.S. course list, never interviewed him for the position.

“I thought ‘Oh, they’re going to hire me,’” Shaffer said. “I was totally crushed.”

The job at the Tom Fazio-designed course went to Bill Knox, a former assistant superintendent at Augusta National. Shaffer, 51, realized that he needed to get that experience on his resume, so he moved to Georgia to work at the club. Shaffer said he needed to get a “Masters degree” to go with his Penn State education.

### **Country Clubbers**

Beyond grass growing, programs such as Penn State’s prepare enrollees for country-club life. Like Davis, Shaffer has not-so- fond memories of the etiquette course, which taught working- class students how to dress and write proper English.



“Most of the guys come from a humble background, but you’re going to be working with bluebloods,” Shaffer said. “The very first way to show your ignorance is to be uncomfortable in their presence.”

Carl Spackler comes to mind, Penn State’s Kaminski said, referencing actor Bill Murray’s grass- and dirt-stained greenskeeper character in the 1980 movie “Caddyshack.”

Spackler is fiction.

“It’s a lot of science,” Kaminski says of the modern-day superintendent’s work. “But it’s starting to morph into a lot of business management. In truth, 15 percent of what you’re doing is related to agronomy and 85 percent is those other areas.”

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To contact the editor responsible for this story: Michael Sillup at [msillup@bloomberg.net](mailto:msillup@bloomberg.net)

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**SEE PAGE 10 FOR INFORMATION REGARDING THE  
GRAND OPENING OF THE CANOE CLUB’S CLUBHOUSE**

**SEE PAGE 11 FOR INFORMATION REGARDING THE  
COMMODORE/NEW MEMBER DINNER DANCE**



## **Scranton Canoe Clubhouse Grand Opening**

Please join us for a grand opening celebration marking the opening our newly remodeled clubhouse on **Saturday, May 11, 2013 from 4-6 pm.**

Light fare and light refreshments will be served

**Saturday May 11, 2013**

Scranton Canoe Club

**Clubhouse**

**570.378.9976**

THE SCRANTON CANOE CLUB PRESENTS:



*Commodore - New Member  
Dinner Dance*

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!  
INSTALLATION OF THE COMMODORE!

**SATURDAY, MAY 18TH**

COCKTAILS &  
HORS D'OEUVRES

6:00 PM

DINNER

6:30 PM

DANCING

8:30 PM

**FOR RESERVATIONS CALL: 570-378-9976**