



1887

THE 1887 PROJECT

FOXBURG GOLF PRESERVATION

SUMMER 2024 NEWSLETTER

**UPDATES FOR THE FRIENDS AND MEMBERS OF
FOXBURG GOLF COURSE AND THE 1887 PROJECT**

Chairperson Column

Andy Rapp, Chairperson, Foxburg Golf Preservation Group

We started the Foxburg Golf Preservation (FGP) conceptually in 2019 and formally incorporated in 2020 during a time of much uncertainty. We started this effort out of an obligation to preserve local history and a mindfulness of future generations. We began to realize another opportunity: a complete “professional” restoration effort for a course that is deserving of it; it is also much overdue for it.

For 137 years, the Foxburg Golf Course has been open to the public. A relatively small and humble membership contingent has had the responsibility to ensure its maintenance and operation for well over a century. That model still exists today. Due to economic shifts locally over the last 30 years, ever-increasing costs of goods and services, and a fluctuating interest in golf, the historic Foxburg Golf Course requires assistance for its survival. This is the purpose of the FGP.

As stewards of this effort, it is important that all donors and prospective donors understand our efforts are more “long term” based and not “quick fixes.” We must balance the immediate needs with the long-term vision. In doing so, we also must ensure that our efforts do not create additional burdens, additional expenses and liabilities that are not sustainable. We must also maintain the vision of integrity and history while understanding that creativity and advancement are important too.

The most critical area of this restoration effort at this very moment is funding the restoration of the entire irrigation system. This “Phase I” effort requires funds of nearly \$1 million dollars. We have retained The EADS Group, a project Engineering, Architectural and Design firm to manage the design planning aspect of this effort. This ensures that the project is professionally scoped and appropriately managed from the ground up. Everything we do considers all aspects of project management – sustainability, costs, planning, organization, etc. It is important that all generous donor groups, and all prospective donors, understand that the FGP will act in every responsible way possible to ensure that this project is well thought out, properly managed and creates a reliable operating system for the next generation.

Please consider making a donation to our effort for the future generations of golfers at Foxburg. This entire effort is creating a great example of community integration, involvement and engagement to our younger generation. The community needs your support. Thank you to all our generous donors over the years for this project. We would not be in the position we are today if it were not for your generous donations and interest.

Andrew Rapp
Chairman
Foxburg Golf Preservation



All you really need to know about June's inaugural Starkey-Colony Foxburgfest Shootout is this: 93.7 WFAN's host of "The Joe Starkey Show" had so much fun playing Foxburg CC that despite being the captain of the losing team, he went back out to play another nine holes. A third nine for Starkey? It's true, and Foxburg CC couldn't get a better endorsement.



The event was hit despite a brief torrential downpour that interrupted play for 45 minutes late in the first round. The sun subsequently returned and made for a steamy second round. It was classic Foxburg weather. Mr. Jim Gregorich, Foxburg's Superintendent of Grounds, had the course in spectacular condition for the event.

Besides Starkey and his WFAN colleague, long-time radio host Jim Colony, the day featured a lineup of celebrities:

Carole Semple Thompson, long-time amateur great, World Golf Hall of Fame member and winner of the USGA's prestigious Bob Jones Award.

Jason Stanford, former Cleveland Indians pitcher.

Bruce Baumgartner, one of America's greatest wrestlers. He competed in four Olympics and won four Olympic medals (two gold); won nine World Championship medals; and is a member of the U.S. Olympic Hall of Fame. He is a former athletic director at Edinboro University.

Sal Genilla, former University of Pittsburgh quarterback.



Pre-tournament activities included tours of the upstairs Golf Museum, highlighted by Semple Thompson's visit as she pointed out players she competed with or knew and shared a few memories. After the first nine, the field took a break to enjoy world-class tacos supplied by Otto's Tavern of Emlenton, PA. The post-round feast of smoked turkey, beef tips with mushroom gravy, crab shrimp stuffed shells in alfredo red pepper sauce were prepared by the crew at Otto's Tavern as well. All participants left Foxburg stuffed!

Other gracious sponsors that helped power this event were Mr. Joe Potocnik, Owner of JP Roofing and Metal Buildings of North Versailles, PA. Sebald, Hackwelder & Knox Law Firm of Erie, Western Pennsylvania Golf Association (WPGA), Neffy’s Cigars of Emlenton, PA, Parker’s Appliance of Chicora, PA. Hemlock Wealth Management sponsored the Hole #5 “Straightest Drive” with 4 Pittsburgh Penguins Club Casamigos Tickets. Our event also had a host of “Tee Sponsorships” that allowed us all to put on a great event.

As it was Flag Day, June 14th, two-hundred and fifty United States of America flags lined the clubhouse road, practice putting green and every tee kindly provided by FPG board member, James W. Martin.

FCC member Logan Pistorius led the individual scoring with a 66, 2 under par. Former club champ Ted Marron posted 68 and Genilla was third-best with a 70.

The event scoring was based on the results of two-person matches between Starkey and Colony who were broken into 2 person teams. The winners of each match earned two points for their respective teams in Round 1; Teams earned 3 points for a match win in Round 3. Team Starkey found themselves down to Team Colony by a score of 10-14. Round two proved to be another win for Team Colony going 21-15. The final score: Team Colony 35 – Team Starkey 25. Captain Jim Colony happily accepted the beautiful FoxburgFEST Shootout Trophy which was graciously commissioned and donated by Foxburg Golf Preservation board member, Mr. James W. Martin of Erie, Pennsylvania.



June marked a big month for Foxburg GC. In addition to the event jokingly known as the Starkey-Colony Bake Off, **Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro visited the course to look around.**

His trip got off to an awkward start when his huge motorhome wasn't able to make the drive up Harvey Road to the clubhouse due to low overhanging power lines. The Governor and his entourage, which included his wife and children, got out and were taken to the clubhouse in cars. There, they toured the grounds and enjoyed the Golf Museum and its historic artifacts.

Later, they went to the seventh tee and took turns hitting golf balls with hickory-shafted clubs, a photo opportunity for the handful of photographers documenting **the Governor's trip.** His family had a good time swinging the old clubs and at some point, while they were taking their cuts, the Governor looked out over the course and the serene valley in the distance and said to no one in particular, "This is heaven."



While in the American Golf Hall of Fame and Museum, which is on the second floor of the clubhouse, **Governor Shapiro noticed a July 23, 1973 letter from Pennsylvania's Governor at the time, Milton Shapp.** The letter announced that the Governor's Cup would be awarded to the American Golf Hall of Fame Champion each year. Governor Shapp served as Governor of Pennsylvania from 1971 to 1979. Governor Shapp changed his name from "Shapiro" to Shapp to avoid anti-semitism before getting into the gentile business. (Note: We are unsure how the two are related.)



Planning Committee Progress

Larry Adams,
FGP Board of Directors and
Committee Chairperson

The Planning Committee has continued work on projects to restore and preserve the golf course.

The Soil Fertility Analysis report mentioned in the last newsletter has been received. Conducted by REP Consulting, Inc. it contains information regarding soil conditions on the golf course and actions that can be taken to improve and maintain the turf. The information will be used for the work to be done on the course and has been shared with golf course personnel. This will help further the improvement already made in the condition of the golf course.



As part of the preparation of the Master Facilities Plan, The EADS Group conducted an assessment of the wells and water storage used for watering the turf on the golf course. The current water supply was found to be inadequate in both quantity and quality. Because of that, FGP and The EADS Group decided to drill a test well in another location to determine if a better supply could be found. Early results from the test well are positive with testing for quantity and quality to be completed soon.



If the test well proves out, it has the potential to save significant costs over rehabilitation of the existing wells, treatment of the water for irrigation, and water storage. When testing is complete, the Master Facilities Plan will be completed, incorporating the results.

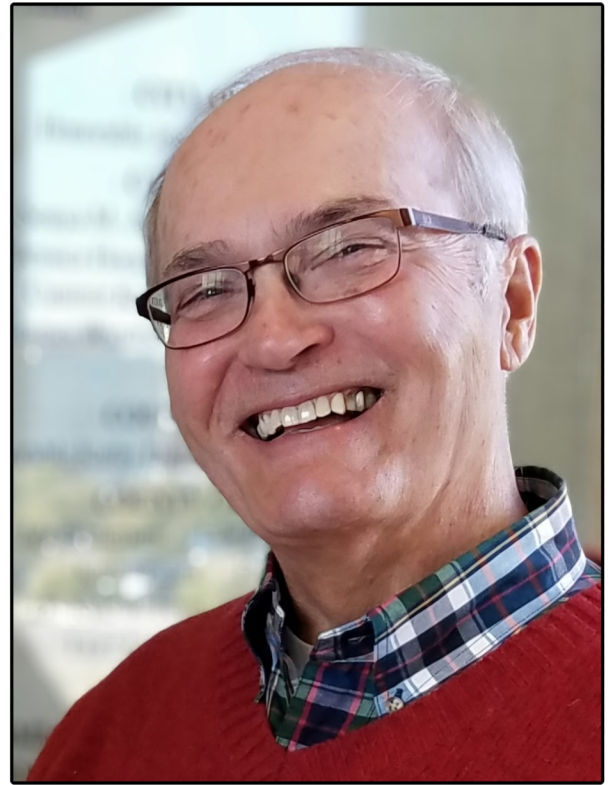
Also underway is the preparation of the construction specifications for improvements and features on the golf course. Ron Forse of Forse Design, Inc. recently visited the course to gather additional information. He was joined by construction and irrigation specialists, please see photo. The construction specifications will provide specific locations on the golf course for greens to be returned to original profiles, features to be added and irrigation fixtures along with determining the materials needed to complete the work.

All things considered, planning is going well, and we should be prepared to move forward when funding is available.

DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Bruce Whitehair, Committee Chairperson

With nearly 30% of the \$2.5 million goal already raised, Foxburg Golf Preservation, Inc.'s fundraising continued in 2024. Financial support was received from individuals, families, businesses, corporations, government agencies and professional golf organizations that recognize the importance of preserving and restoring the national treasure of the 137 year old Foxburg Golf Course. We hope to announce their significant contributions in future newsletters.



We are grateful for all of the financial support received to-date, \$725,000! Several grants have been submitted this year to organizations that support historic preservation and we hope to announce their significant contributions in future newsletters.

As Pennsylvania prepares to celebrate its 250th birthday in 2025, we remind the Commonwealth that Foxburg's legacy started with a land grant to the Fox family from William Penn himself!

The Foxburg Golf Preservation, Inc. Board Members thank you and stand ready to discuss your future philanthropy plans ranging from cash gifts of all sizes, stock transfers, gifts of property, and estate plans.

**This can't be done by any one of us alone.
But it can be done by all of us together!**

\$2.5 MILLION

WE ARE AT 30% OF GOAL



9 Reasons Why Everyone Should Play Golf

Nearly 2.2 million people started golfing in 2015 alone. With that many people hitting the course for the first time, it should be no surprise that there are some benefits to playing golf to support local veterans, mental health evidence-based programs and educational initiatives.

*** For those who are still on the fence about playing golf at historic Foxburg Golf Course, we've gathered this list of nine reasons everyone should grab a set of clubs and sign-up.**

As you'll soon see, there's something for everyone when it comes to the great game of golf, so get ready to find out how this sport can benefit you. Keep reading to find out more!

1 Good Exercise

First and foremost, golf is good exercise. Not only do you spend a lot of time on your feet, but you also do a lot of walking. In fact, most courses will have you walking around 4 miles by the end, so you'll certainly get in your daily step goals.

2 Be in the Great Outdoors

When you play a round of golf, you'll spend that time outside.

That means bringing plenty of sunscreen, but it also means you'll get the benefits that come with spending time outside. Some benefits of being outdoors include:

1. Sleep better
2. Lower blood pressure
3. Decreased depression
4. Boost creative thinking
5. Less anxiety

Being in a beautiful location where you can take in nature like it's art certainly doesn't hurt, either!

3 Make New Friends

While there's nothing wrong with playing golf with a friend, another benefit of playing golf is that you can make new friends.

One of the easiest ways to do that is to head to the course alone. Let the clubhouse know you're willing to join others, and they'll be more than happy to set you up with other willing groups. Before you know it, you'll be heading out for a celebratory drink with a new friend or two.



4 Challenge Yourself

Unlike many team sports, golf is personal. Most of the time, you play against yourself to try to beat your own previous record.

This makes it a lot of fun to work hard and try to do better than the last time you played. Fortunately, there are many things you can do to improve your game, so you can keep learning and improving. As you get better, you can set new goals for yourself to knock more and more strokes off your score.

9 Reasons Why Everyone Should Play Golf (cont..)

5 Build Character

Part of the challenge of golf is that it can be frustrating at times. However, we see this as an opportunity to build character.

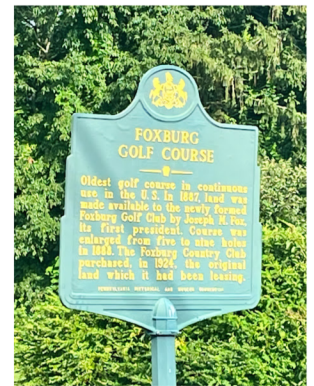
When you miss a putt or land in the sand trap for the third time, you have a choice to make. You can get upset which will likely make your game even worse, or you can take a deep breath and recognize that sometimes, life doesn't go as planned. In those quiet moments out on the course, you also have the chance to see the bigger picture.

Maybe you don't need to get so upset when your children make a mess in your home office or when your secretary forgets to make you copies.

6 Whole Family Activity

Speaking of your kids, why not bring them along on your next golf outing? If they're old enough, they can get exercise with you by walking the course.

If they're too young, then you can take a golf cart to help them out. You can get golf clubs in every size, shape, and color, so there's no reason to limit your kids' golf experiences to the putt-putt course. Let your whole family benefit from golfing and bond in the process.



7 Improve Business Relationships

The best place to make that new business deal may be the golf course. Why? Simple. Golf is a game played by many business women and men. It should be no surprise since it's a great way to exercise and get out of the office for a while.

If you're looking to improve your career, it might be time to take up golfing. There are a few ways you can use golf to improve your business relationships.

* First of all, you can take out colleagues or bosses out for a round. You can play at beautiful Foxburg Golf Course! It's a great opportunity to enjoy each other's company and have a neutral location where it's easy to talk about anything. It can also help you make new business relationships.

As you're making new friends on the course, you may end up finding other business people in similar industries that you can work with.

8 Relaxation

We briefly mentioned that being outdoors can help you ease anxiety, but this needs repeating as the game itself can also help you relax. This is particularly true if you're playing by yourself. When it's just you, your club, and the ball, it's easy to allow the rest of your problems slip away.

You can focus only on the problem at hand, which is getting that ball into the hole. Sometimes, it's taking that time away from your problems in the office or at home that allows you to put things into perspective. Then, you can return with a refreshed mind and renewed resolve to calmly resolve problems.

9 Reasons Why Everyone Should Play Golf (cont..)

Better Health

All of these things put together will help you improve your health out on the golf course. The exercise you'll get and the time spent outside are both huge parts of it, but even improved relationships have a positive impact on your health.

One other specific way golf improves your health is by allowing you to get the sunlight needed to get enough vitamin D. This essential vitamin is made in your body but is triggered by exposure to sunlight. Getting enough vitamin D may help you:

1. Lower your risk of cancer
2. Boost your immune system
3. Help body absorb calcium to prevent bone loss

You only need about 15 minutes of sun exposure to gain these benefits, so a round of golf will give you plenty of vitamin D!

*** Need an Outing to Play Golf? Call Foxburg Golf Course.**

Now you know nine reasons for everyone to get out there and play golf at Foxburg Golf Course!

As you can see, it's a great way to improve your health and relationships.



MAKE YOUR
FAVORITE
MEMORIES AT
THE FOXBURG
GOLF COURSE

FUN AT
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LOTS OF
LOVE AT
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FOXBURG
GOLF
COURSE





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FOXBURG GOLF PRESERVATION

Your Support Makes A Difference

Slightly more than **\$700,000** has been raised to date for the renovation and preservation of the Foxburg Golf Course. Fundraising and grant writing hopes to close by the end of 2025 the gap on the \$2.75 million needed to complete the project, plus aspire to raise an added \$2 million for an endowment for on-going financial support for the course.

Thanks to your generous contributions, the 1887 Project continues to make significant strides towards restoring and preserving the legacy of Foxburg Golf Course. From course improvements to historic preservation efforts, your support is invaluable. Learn more about the project and donate today at: 1887project.org!

CALL TO ACTION

This is just the beginning of our exciting journey! Stay tuned for updates on news, upcoming events, restoration progress, and more. Better yet please be involved!

We appreciate your continuing support in preserving this national treasure.

Foxburg Golf Preservation, Inc. Harvey Road, PO Box 326
Foxburg, PA 16036

The Foxburg Golf Preservation Board of Directors

Andrew Rapp, Bruce Whitehair, Gary Van Sickle,
Daniel L. Johnston, Gary Whittington, Holly Pipher, Larry Adams,
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