

Bocce Yearbook

The Early Years

In the beginning—came the bright idea of Bocce—in the year 1994.

The then Recreation Dept., chaired by Marie Bruckmann decided to initiate a drive to convert the defunct shuffleboard court into a bocce court. Marie never having played or even heard of the sport, delved into the research with other people and future players who not only built the court, but helped establish the base for a successful, enjoyable venture for all Connesteans to enjoy.

It was the beginning of taking years to grow into a very large part of the sport here in Connestee. Bocce is beneficial for both physical and mental health. The game requires use of nearly all of the muscles of the body, but without strenuous activity. Bocce can be played by seniors well in their nineties. The game plays an important role in keeping retirees physically active and provides social stimulation with their friends and neighbors.

Bocce has enjoyed the continual growth as an all year-round sport, and with the fervor of all players, at this time, will be an enjoyable sport and social function for many, many more years.

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RECREATION COMMITTEE

by Marie Bruckmann

Have you enjoyed, been entertained, had a learning experience, or had an hour of good honest to goodness exercise? If you haven't, you haven't been coming to the Recreation Committee events. We try to give a variety of events so that a wide range of interests are covered. Some of the activities offered: Wednesday night movies, travelogues, sing-alongs, and speakers, such as the Astronomy event. On Friday afternoons you will find our tap class working hard learning a routine expertly put together by Jean Pearson. The ballroom dance classes are learning steps

they had never done, with the instruction/help of four or more instructors.

If your interest is more for the open outdoors, every Tuesday, starting in the spring, we have our horseshoe event. (See the article and pictures of our horseshoes tournament.) We also maintain the hiking trails for your hiking pleasure. Every spring the trails are cleared of winter debris. This year new steps were installed on the Ogana Trail going uphill from the Lay-by Scenic View area.

Our "trip" chairperson has been working closely with

Fugazy Travel to bring you interesting trips ranging from one to three days in duration. Past trip offerings were in the Biloxi, Miss., and Atlanta sojourn.

Many more interesting things are being "brewed" by your Recreation Committee in a continuing effort to offer everyone a chance to enjoy. Some of the things in the future will be: line dancing, a Bocce court, and a special May 1st event.

In order to make the May 1st event a special one, we would like all the boat owners to voice your opinion and be counted.

The Recreation Committee has a plan for a Regatta, in which all boat owners could participate. Trophies to be given for: the most original, the funniest dress and decorated boat; and 1st place trophy in races of different boat classes. Are you interested? Enough to give a call to 884-9803 so that planning can begin? Do let us hear from all the boat owners, -- we do want to make this a great, and different day.

If you have other special interests or ideas, just contact us (same phone number) - we love to listen to new ideas.

CONNESTEE FALLS NEWS ARTICLE — 1994



THE BUILDERS OF THE COURTS

Frank & Marie Bruckmann

Harry Smith

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Bowling, Italian-style, catches fancy of Transylvania players

By Phil Alexander
BREVARD BUREAU

CONNESTEE FALLS – In the relaxed atmosphere of this private southern Transylvania County community, golf and tennis are big sports, but new bocce enthusiasts are spending hours getting to know their neighbors with a game that's easy to learn but deceptively tricky to play.

A group of 84 Conneestee Falls residents are having fun with a game that although sometimes known as Italian bowling actually originated in ancient Egypt. Many of the players are learning the sport, in which physical handicaps are no handicap against being a good bowler.

The name of the game is similar to the Italian word for "kiss," an apt description of the object of the game – to throw or roll four 40-ounce colored balls close enough that they "kiss" the smaller object ball, known as the pallina or jack.

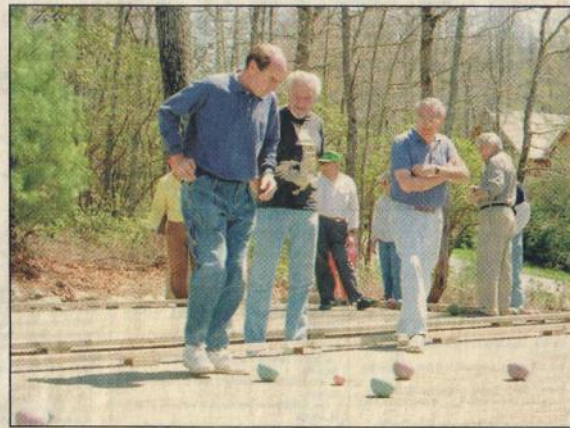
Scoring is similar to horseshoes. A team scores a point for each ball it has closer to the

pallina than its opponents. But as in croquet, bocce bowlers can knock their opponents' balls out of the way or tap the pallina closer to their balls. The first team to score 16 points wins.

The private community began forming bocce leagues last summer when the property association's recreation committee began looking at how to make use of a rarely-used shuffleboard court.

Committee chairwoman Marie Bruckmann said the association had a lawn bocce set, which uses lighter balls, but the trouble was in having to keep a lawn mowed. When someone suggested turning the shuffleboard area into tournament-style bocce courts, Harry Smith led volunteers in building wooden rails which the balls can be played off.

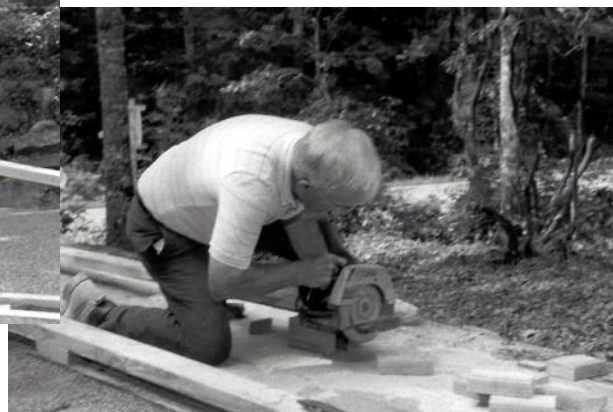
Last year's first summer league had 72 people sign up; league organizers Bob and Dee Battista expect more than 100 participants for a five- to six-month season beginning in June, when seasonal residents return.



CONNESTEE FALLS – Local residents play the ancient game of bocce, a type of lawn bowling. PHIL ALEXANDER/CITIZEN-TIMES



Harry Smith hard at work



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WYFF's Geoff Hart
July 1995

