

## April 2010 email from Tom

When I (Tom) was watching the Masters Golf Tournament over this past weekend, I couldn't help but admire the beautiful flowers and the bright green grass that adorned the course. Typically, their spring colors show up about three weeks ahead of ours here at Capon, but not this year. Everything is popping out all over. The leaves on the trees, the grass on the lawns and the golf course, and the buds on the flowers are all making their appearances. It is going to be so beautiful here by the time you come see us in May!

We are in high gear right now, finishing up the first phase of the Main Building project. And none too soon! NEXT weekend, we are hosting a destination wedding. The bride spent many years growing up at Capon and she wanted to be here for her very special day. That makes all of us feel very proud and indeed special.

We are noticing that a number of regulars have yet to put in their reservations to come for our most popular spring programs. Fran Call will be back to do water color from May 10 to May 12. Jim Allen and his bridge expertise will follow exactly one week later.

The next week is especially exciting as we begin with many weekend events from May 21 to May 23, followed by a very contemporary and exciting program on the Shroud of Turan. We will be offering a new version of the Caponchase, a guided tour of the Main Building project, and a walk on a brand new hiking trail over that weekend. Then first thing Monday morning, May 24, Tom D'Muhala will be here to bring everyone up-to-date on the current happenings involving the Shroud. We have a very special rate (a really "screaming" deal!) if you plan to come for all five days from Friday to Wednesday. Please check with us about that.

The Caponchase is a special challenge, a game, and lots of fun for you to take part in, either individually or as a group. Jonathan has turned the reins over to me this year, so you will be seeing a lot of clues that will involve using your math skills. Here's a sampling to get you going:

"From the Spring House to the stone pillars, count the wooden bridges over Capon Run. And should you wonder about the Hampshire steps, don't bother to include that one!"

Since I mainly work in the reservations area here at Capon, it would only be natural for me to suggest some dates for you to come see us. There is just a weekend or two between April 29 and August 1st, where we might have trouble accommodating your request. Other than that, we have a spot just waiting for you! We have a lot of “family-friendly” locations available beginning in mid-June and all the way through July, while the kids are out of school. These are rooms still open that can accommodate four to five persons for two, three, or four nights throughout this stretch. So don't believe it when someone says that you can't get just a few days in July! You can prove them wrong with just one phone call or email!

And again this year, because of Labor Day being late again, we have an extra week at the end of August. You may recall that last year, we offered some pretty special rates during that time. This year, we decided to return to our off-season rates starting on August 22<sup>nd</sup>. That means that reduced weeknight rates will go into effect beginning on that Sunday! (\$110 per adult per night in a room with private bath; \$89 per person per night in a room with running water in the Main Building) So plan early, because last year we had a rush on these rooms as families grabbed one last little bit of Capon before the new school year began.

There's a story going around that I my beard has disappeared for the first time in 15 years! Everyone tells me I look years younger, so I'm counting on you to tell me that as well, when you see me in person! Patty and I went on a cruise to the Bahamas this past March and I shaved off my beard on the first night at sea. She had never seen me without it and now I'm afraid she won't ever let me grow it back! Ha!

We had a wonderful winter! We spent time with family and traveled to several locations for Patty to continue her musical pursuits. Patty's choir was asked to perform TWICE at the White House this past December. On the second occasion, they had their picture taken with President and Mrs. Obama! What a treasured moment for all of them!

So this place is presently a beehive of activity as we get everything back in order for you and all of our friends. Jonathan wanted to thank everyone who participated in his Capon Survey. He gathered a lot of useful information. For the next seven months, I will be sitting right here at my desk waiting to hear from all of you. I think you will be pleased with the renovations. As always, we try to make any improvements to the facilities fit in with the character of this place that you so cherish and love.

See you soon!