

Rock Harbor News

July 2015

Member Corner: Brian McLaughlin



(Above) Summer 2014, Post Oak on Rock # 16 before *SaveATree* began treating the tree for a fungus infection. (Below) After *SaveATree* has been treating the tree, it appears fuller and greener.



By: *Misty Fields*

Brian McLaughlin may not look like your typical super hero with the cape, colorful tights and knee high boots. He doesn't save people from burning buildings or stop robbery's in progress. Brian is a hero in nature—he saves trees. You may be laughing right now, thinking I have stretched this too far. But think about Rock Harbor with no trees, short trees, or freshly planted trees. Would the course have the same appeal? Would you love Rock Harbor the same? Would you rave about the beauty of the course? Probably not. Rock Harbor has a lot of trees that are in jeopardy of being lost to either disease or post traumatic stress due to course construction. Brian is an Arborist who first notice the *Post Oak* on Rock #16 (picture left) that was experiencing a fungal



disease that threatened to kill the tree. This tree defines this hole and it is a very rare variety of oak. He knew that if that tree was lost the atmosphere of the hole was lost also. You can read more about the trees and the work *SavATree* is doing at Rock Harbor in the article on page 7. Brian moved to Winchester in 1986 with his family and graduated from Handley

High School in 1989. He has been married to Christie for 12 years and he has 2 daughters, Brooke (21) and Avery (17). Brian and his wife enjoy hiking at Skyline Drive and vacationing in the Outer Banks each year. Christie works a full time job for the government and also owns Shirley's Angels Boxer Rescue. She rescues Boxers from all over and has 5 Boxers and 1 Pit-bull in their home. Brian didn't start playing golf until about 5 years ago when he was invited to play in the Member/Guest Tournament. Brian played the occasional round prior to the Member/Guest but nothing serious. He decided to become a member after the tournament because he had such a great time during the tournament and the found the people to be equally as delightful.



Pictorial Diary: No. ?

This months featured hole has two clues to help you in your guessing: The power lines and the large tree on the left are landmarks that still exists. This picture was taken in May of 2007. Happy guessing!

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SavATree: Saving One Tree At a Time

By: Misty Fields
June 4, 2015

SavATree is a company located in Springfield, VA with its corporate offices in New York.

Brain McLaughlin along with his right hand man, Doug DeAmerst have been working at Rock Harbor during the past month to restore health to our trees. Multiple problems exist on the course because of natural causes and due to course construction.

One of the problems that exist is infection. The Ash Trees have been infected with an insect that is destroying the trees from the inside out. You may have noticed some of the trees with dead branches and tree tops that are dead or dying. This is due to infection. Brain and Doug carefully calculate the circumference of the trees, note the species of trees and combine a mix-

ture that kills the little critters inside of the trees.

They then inject this mixture into the trees in a process called *Emerald Ash Borer Injections* to begin bringing the tree back to health.

SavATree is also treating the trees with a process called *Arbor Balance*. (pictures left) Before the golf course was a golf course it was part orchard and part forest. So a lot of the trees grew up in a very cramped environment which caused them to shoot to the sky in tall, straight trees—no fullness to them. In order to help the trees become thicker, have fuller branches and regulated growth they are treating them at the roots with another very specific mixture. The other problem SavATree is working to fix is Fungal Disease. The best example of this is the tree on Rock #16 (pictured on

page 1 of Insert) that Brain identified during a round of golf. He noticed not only that the tree was in distress but that it was a very rare variety of Oak, a Post Oak. The fungal disease can come from other plants in the area and begins to damage and can eventually kill a tree. This tree was diseased but it was also weakened due to the course construction which made it even more important to act right away.

You have probably noticed trees around the course with blue ribbons and orange paint. The blue ribbon means the tree will be treated and saved. The orange ribbon means the tree could not be saved and will have to be removed. Don't worry, new trees will be planted to replace the ones coming down.

If you want more information on SavATree and their services:
www.treecare.com



Doug is treating the trees with an Arbor Balance to restore health to the trees.



This is one of the Ash Trees that will be treated with Emerald Ash Borer Injections. You can see the holes that have been bored into the tree by the insect.

