

## No Place Like Home

### Playing Tourist:

#### Seeing the Township through a Tourist's Eye

by Roberta Smith, scrabblebuff@hotmail.com

Those of us of a "certain age" recall the Catskills as a well-known tourist destination. I'm sure I'm not the only one who recalls working at the *Nevele* over Christmas break, or having a brother who bussed tables at the *Homowack*, or a girlfriend who made great money baby-sitting at "the hotel." I also recall picking apples in the fall, skiing *Mount Cathalia* or ice fishing in the winter, and marking spring by the first day of trout season. We'd know the seasons were changing properly if the peonies bloomed by "Decoration Day," and if Mr. Thornton's strawberries – a local U-pick – were ripe just before Independence Day. (My siblings and I still laugh in recalling our grandfather's stern admonishment to "Pick 'em clean!" when strawberry or huckleberry picking.)

Despite the demise of many of the Catskill resorts (wrongly named, by the way, as the "borscht belt" hotels were not actually in the **Catskill Mountain** range), our own backyard still abounds with tourist attractions, beautiful vistas, and plenty of amusement, there for the taking. Join me in taking a look.

### HUNTING & FISHING

A fishing or hunting license, at a nominal \$19 per year, is a great way to enjoy the outdoors. Licenses are available locally from the Wawarsing Town Clerk, *Tom's Taxidermy*, and *Art's Gun & Tackle*. A hint from the local conservation officer: buy your license at a sports shop and you may get directed to a good trout stream, fishing hole, or hunting area. State-owned property (known locally as **Lundy's Estate**) where any licensed person can hunt or fish, falls within the Town of Wawarsing's borders. Fishing at **Lippman Park** is great for the little ones, where at times it seems the fish are lined up to take your bait.

Fishing and boating licenses are available, FREE, for the New York City reservoirs (**Rondout** and **Neversink** in this area). Note that post 9-11 reservoir fishing license applications must be made in writing, and old licenses are no longer honored. A regular NYS fishing license is required as well to fish the reservoirs. (A point of interest: Sholam, my grandmother's birthplace, was a small community that existed *under* what is now the **Rondout Reservoir**.)

### GOLFING

The *Shawangunk Country Club*, the *Nevele Grande*, and *Hudson Valley Resort & Spa* are all open to the public. The *Nevele Grande's* 27 holes are known for their breathtaking views of the **Shawangunk Mountain** range. Robert Trent Jones designed the nine holes that were once the *Fallsview* course; Tom Fazio is credited with the re-design of the *Nevele's* 18 holes. The *Hudson Valley Resort & Spa's* course is also known for its idyllic setting. *Shawangunk* is described as a "hilly, charming, old style course, with smaller greens." Both resorts have driving ranges, and all three courses offer lessons and have a resident PGA pro. For those interested in local history, it was intriguing to learn of *Shawangunk Country Club's* more humble beginnings. It was built by the father of one of our "town fathers," past Mayor Robert Dowling. ➔

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