



Greens Committee Newsletter

October 13, 2009

This is the first in a regular series of Greens Committee ("Committee") newsletters intended to keep WWCC members up to date on activities related to the upkeep and maintenance of our golf course. As you will soon see, this first edition newsletter is somewhat limited in terms of information but, as time goes by and the author becomes more involved with the committee, I fully expect successive newsletters to be much more informative.

The first news item concerns the recent aeration of the greens. At the beginning of last week you may have noticed that only greens #1 thru 5 and one-half of #6 had been aerated and greens #7 thru 9 had not been aerated. This was a result of the aeration machine breaking down halfway through the aeration of green #6. Since the parts to repair the machine would arrive too late in the season to aerate the remainder of #6 and #7-#9, Ryan decided to simply "spike" those greens (poke smaller holes in the surface and fill those holes with sand). These greens have now been completed and it is anticipated that in the spring after the greens fill in, you will be unable to tell which greens were aerated and which were spiked.

The next item of interest concerns new trees for the course. If you had glanced over at the equipment shed last week you would have noticed several balled trees leaning against the building. In addition, there was also a large conifer standing between the sand pile and the gas tank. The Board approved the purchase of these trees – at a significant end-of-season discount – to replace trees that have died and/or to be placed in areas where a tree is indicated. Those trees have since been planted in various locations on the course.

In addition to the new trees, the committee recommended and the Board of Directors ("Board") approved the hiring of an arborist from Wachtel Tree Science and Service (www.healthytrees.com) to inspect and inventory the existing trees on the course and to provide recommendations on maintaining and improving the health of those trees. This inspection/inventory took place on October 7th and we expect that Wachtel will provide a formal report and any recommendations sometime this week or next. I'll update you on the results in a forthcoming newsletter.

You should also be aware that the Committee has recommended to the Board that the club avail itself of the Turf Advisory Service ("TAS") offered by the USGA's Green Section." The USGA's description of its TAS service reads as follows: "First started in 1953, this service permits individual facilities to reap the benefits of on-site visits by highly skilled USGA agronomists located in Green



Section offices throughout the country. Each agronomist visits more than 130 courses annually. Their experience helps golf course staff and officials produce the best possible golf turf for the dollars that can be spent. The TAS's purpose is not to tell anyone how to run a golf course or what products to buy. Rather, it seeks to bring a wealth of information and an impartial yet concerned perspective regarding turf grass growth requirements, how these requirements might best be managed for golf, and ideas that other golf courses have found to be beneficial."

The USGA's description might lead you to believe that the TAS focuses exclusively on the growing and care of grass. That's not true. The USGA agronomist is an expert in all aspects of a golf course and we would look for his/her help in many areas including but not limited to the leveling of tee boxes, restructuring of shapeless and overflowing sand traps and advising on drainage issues.

If you are interested in learning more about this service you can visit the USGA's website at www.usga.org/course_care/turf_advisory_service/Turf-Advisory-Service/. When you reach that site you can choose from a number of interesting items including an article entitled: *The Value of a USGA Turfgrass Advisory Service Visit*. If you have any doubts about whether or not the WWCC would benefit from such a service, I encourage you to read this article.

Finally, as you all know, the Board has always encouraged members to contact them with any question or concern regarding the operation of the WWCC. In addition to that option, I encourage you to e-mail me personally with any questions or comments or concerns about the golf course. I will do my best to answer your questions and I will ensure that your comments and concerns are shared with the Committee. My e-mail address is djensen000@ameritech.net and I can be reached at (262) 472-8853.

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