



# Tree Talk

## Keep it Simple, Use Common Sense

By Bill Lane



**The only thing consistent in life is change.** We all tend to be resistant to change and crave consistency and stability. Six months ago I ordered an audit and the results let me know we needed to make some changes. If any members would like to see the results, Eddie and Kim will gladly share them with you. Anyone with one eye and half sense will understand why these changes are important. I have been told by members they want consistency and I believe we have that in our staff. For starters, we have six great assets working behind our pro shop counter. Vito Laudicina is our computer genius, Larry Sasser is our homegrown man whom everyone knows, Dick Kirk is very knowledgeable about the game of golf, John Falkenstein is an excellent pool manager and has a delightful sense of humor, Parker King has a wonderful personality that everyone gravitates towards, and Doc Johnson has done a great job of pointing out irregularities. Next, there are two men that help our course run smoothly in and out are Jeff Cannon and Chad Matthews. Jeff is our club manager and he's never met a stranger. He brings a lot of business to our event space and grill area. Chad is our superintendent with many years of

experience and I personally consult with him on everything we do at Lane Tree. Last, but certainly not least, is our GM "Steady" Eddie Radford. He has done a fantastic job of taking things over and he is the type of person who can calm any storm. With this team in place we feel confident in moving forward with these necessary changes.



There has been plenty of talk about the wet spot on number one. It is something that our superintendent has been aware of for quite some time and here is what he had to say on the matter: "Timing is everything. I was trying to wait until the fall when the grass slowed down to work on it. That way, everything else wouldn't get behind. There are several natural underground springs here at Lane Tree and sometimes they will find a new path of less resistance to work their way up to the surface. Unfortunately, the spring on #1 liked the fairway right at the landing spot. We have worked on this area in the past but with the high level of iron in the water it will stop up the corrugated drain pipe over time. We

used larger rocks this time hoping to prolong this from happening in the near future and then connected it into a larger pipe.”



Iron makes up at least 5% of Earth’s natural resources and when the rainwater seeps into the ground, it dissolves some of those iron deposits. That allows the iron to infiltrate the aquifers that serve as sources of ground water for irrigation. This is a problem that causes reason for change and Chad Matthews has used his knowledge to fix that problem.

Bunkers have been another hot topic. This will be another one of the fall/winter projects that you will see happening. There has been a shortage of sand for any golf course in eastern North Carolina due to the demand of sand for construction. With the two floods we experienced this year, the sand plants were flooded thus limiting the sand supply. Trap sand is different than concrete sand in that it is much finer and all the rocks in it have been separated. It needs to be screened with a different screen than the ones used for other purposes. The sand companies have placed emphasis on the high demand for road repairs and other areas of construction. Since golf courses use less than 1% of the sand that is sold, there are only a few companies that specialize in that area and it is costly. Luckily for Lane Tree, our resident eagle “Bogey Joe” is standing guard on our future trap sand as it

finishes drying out! No matter how badly you played in your golf match, you can always say you got an “eagle” at Lane Tree!



The computer system we have been using in the pro shop can be called inaccurate at best. With the help of the aforementioned computer genius Vito, Lane Tree now has a system put in place that allows you to scan a membership card at the counter before you play. These cards will solve 95% of our problems and will leave out the guess work for our pro shop workers. When you scan the card we can see if you are a current member, what type of membership you have, how often you play, and much more. Members are requested to present cards at time of play. This is intended to speed up the paying process and get you on the course quickly. A popular request we’ve had is bringing back cart cards. Now high activity players will be eligible to purchase these cart cards. We are excited to be moving forward with this new system!



