



Tree Talk



Pride and Professionalism

By Bill Lane



I would like to take the opportunity to talk with the membership this month. Let's talk some facts.

Did you know that our driving range covers roughly 16 acres? Or that it faces north and south which means you will never have the sun in your eyes when hitting. What I didn't realize was that it was going to take a lot of maintenance.

Our driving range is home to one university and three high schools. Not to mention all of members. We go through roughly 500 dozen balls a season and maybe a ton of sand. Let's not forget the cutting, fertilizing, and bug spray that must be applied each year. This year we have been able to secure a new range picker. Now throw in the labor to pick up these balls every day and one can quickly see what we are up against.

In the past, we had way too many range programs. These programs became unmanageable. With six people working the pro shop at different times, everyone that came thru the door seemed to be on a range program. I needed to step in and

bring this process to a more streamlined approach. One that can easily become beneficial to the membership, but at least a break-even point for the company.

I talked with several members to get some feed-back. We have decided to offer an equitable range program.

The program that most suggested was a simple approach. A single member would pay an additional \$20.00 a month or \$200.00 a year if you pay up front for one large bucket a day. For a couple the price would be \$30.00 a month or \$300.00 a year each getting a large bucket a day. This would be a year's commitment. If a member hits say 4 buckets a week for 40 weeks a year, he or she would have spent \$800.00. This is a cost savings of \$560.00 over the course of a year.

The staff will continue to honor any previous program till its expiration and then those members would have the option of going into the new program.

We feel this program can be managed easily and gives a benefit to members that participate. As always, we are open for suggestions and would love to hear yours.

Thanks for your time and dedication.

Lane Tree Kids Golf Update

Ella June Hannant (age 7) recently competed at the Jekyll Island Regional Championship Cup presented by U.S. Kids Golf. She finished in 1st place in the 7 and under division with a 2-day score of 71 (1 under par). Zada (age 5) competing in the same division and shot an impressive 100 from the much longer Regional tee boxes. Karsyn (age 11) also played well and scored her personal best for 27 holes. The Hannant family wants to thank U.S. Kids Golf for the all the wonderful opportunities and our home course (Lane Tree Golf Course) for treating all of us so well and providing such a great course.



Young and Old Golfer

A young man who was also an avid golfer found himself with a few hours to spare one afternoon. He figured if he hurried and played very fast, he could get in nine holes before he had to head home. Just as he was about to tee off an old gentleman shuffled onto the tee and asked if he could accompany the young man as he was golfing alone. Not being able to say no, he allowed the old gent to join him. To his surprise the old man played fairly quickly. He didn't hit the ball far, but plodded along consistently and didn't waste much time. Finally, they reached the 9th fairway and the young man found himself with a tough shot. There was a large pine tree right in front of his ball - and directly between his ball and the green. After several minutes of debating how to hit the shot the old man finally said, "You know, when I was your age I'd hit the ball right over that tree." With that challenge placed before him, the youngster swung hard, hit the ball up, right smack into the top of the tree trunk and it thudded back on the ground not a foot from where it had originally lay. The old man offered one more comment, "Of course, when I was your age that pine tree was only three feet tall."

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