



# Tree Talk



## Keep it Simple, Use Common Sense

By Bill Lane



Last month, we had our first major hurricane since Matthew rocked the Carolinas in 2016. Over the years I keep noticing how quickly things can change, and a major storm like that can certainly put things into perspective. We have gone from snow on the ground, to beautiful spring green, to being submerged in water, and soon we will be covered with the changing fall leaves. We were blessed to only suffer minimal damage and continue to have those who were less fortunate in our thoughts and prayers.

We have our fair share of friendly critters that roam our golf course such as squirrels, birds, and turtles, but after Hurricane Florence hit we saw an abundance of an animal not commonly seen on the fairways: fish. When something like this occurs, it's always interesting to find out the cause. The main reason for the fish kill was simply water inversion, or turnover, which is a process of a body of water turning over from top to bottom. During the summer months the warm oxygen rich water is near the surface and the cool denser water, which is almost void of oxygen, sinks to the bottom. As long as there are no changes in conditions the fish can move through these layers getting the oxygen they need. When

a tremendous amount of cool rainwater drops, it displaces the anoxic water at the bottom of the lake, and the mixing of the layers lowers the oxygen levels throughout. Often times the fish will try to stay close to the surface and move to shallow water looking for more suitable



conditions only to be trapped when the water recedes. It is unfortunate that we have lost many of these beautiful fish, but I know that it was God's way of managing His ponds. These ponds will be healthy as ever in just a couple years.

## Superintendent's Corner

When we hear the news of a hurricane with Eastern NC in its path, we go into hurricane preparation mode at Lane Tree. In my 21 years here, I have experienced several hurricanes and, although they are different in many ways, they have one thing in common: FLOOD! Florence dropped 19.44" of rain at our official weather station located right here on the course, and if it had produced higher winds the damage could have been much worse. The brunt of the storm stayed a little south of us along the Cape Fear River Basin and did not greatly impact Raleigh and Falls Lake where much of our water travels down the Neuse River. One of the most critical things we do here to prepare for a flood is to check all pipes and gates that will allow the water to exit

the course as soon as possible. There are a series of pipes and tiles connecting every pond and gate that can be shut off to prevent the Little River from flowing onto the course as long as it doesn't reach a certain level. If it does reach that level and spills onto the course, the only option is to wait for the water to recede back below the threshold. Once that happens, we strategically place pumps around the course to speed up the process of water removal. Our goal is to open up as soon as possible so you can get back to enjoying this beautiful golf course. This time after the water started receding, it took us six days to open back up. After opening, we



went to work mowing, blowing, and cleaning up. There will be continued

clean-up and bunker work for days to come. I hope everyone and their families did well through the storm and I thank you for your understanding and patience.

Chad Matthews

### Pro Shop News

Fall is here and we hope you all are gearing up for some great golfing weather! Hurricane Florence shut the course down for a week but we are back up and running thanks to the hard work of our maintenance crew. The only real set back we have is a delay in the GPS installation. We have contacted Yamaha and they are working with us to reschedule.

We will be changing the fees for driving range plans effective 1/1/2019. We will offer individual plans at \$400 yearly, and family plans at \$800 yearly. We will honor the yearly plans already purchased

until their expiration date, and members with existing monthly plans will remain at the current rate until 12/31/2018. Apart from range plans, we will give members the option to purchase range cards at a cost of \$50 for 20 small buckets, and \$80 for 20 large buckets.

We are thinking of using one of the bulk texting and/or emailing services to let members know when there are changes in our normal operations. A tool like this will allow us to notify members on any given day of conditions such as rain/frost delays, or cart restrictions. If a service like this would interest you, please send an email to Vito Laudicina ([golfdirector@lanetree.com](mailto:golfdirector@lanetree.com)) and, depending on the amount of positive response, we may try out a pilot program.

**Good golfing everyone! ☺**

**Attention all Lane Tree Ladies**, the LTLGA will be hosting a **“Par Three Nine Hole Challenge” November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018, 2pm shotgun start**. It will be a two person random draw Superball.

**Handicaps are not required.** Cost per player will be \$12-\$15, (need at least 20 players). A picnic will follow the event including grill hot dogs, hamburgers, and covered dishes. Prizes include (4) “closest to the pin”, (2) first and (2) second place prize gift cards. There will be a flyer with all this information and more along with a sign up sheet on the bulletin board in the pro shop. Please join us for our first **“Fall Festival Tournament”** and plan to have a great time. If you have questions, please contact Parker King in the pro shop or Lou Ellen Wilson, [lewilson919@hotmail.com](mailto:lewilson919@hotmail.com).

**\*\*\*Attention Members\*\*\***

**If you have still not turned in your completed updated member applications, please do so as soon as possible.**

