



Tree Talk



Keep it Simple, Use Common Sense

By Bill Lane



The end of 2018 is quickly approaching and we have certainly done some big things at the course this year. There will be more to come for 2019, and we have been hard at work putting these changes into place. As the years go on, it seems like anything you try to accomplish becomes increasingly involved, and it almost takes an act of Congress to complete any task.

I'm sure you have all seen the zoning signs up around Lane Tree, and they will hopefully be the answer to a major item that has been on the agenda for quite some time. Someone travelling down Hwy 44 (70 Bypass) might have a tough time reaching the course due to our exit not being properly advertised. There are no signs north, south, east, or west that indicate what exit to take to get to Lane Tree, and the most difficult direction to navigate is coming from the west towards Kinston. It appears the correct exit should be 355A since it is right beside the course, but that will send you to Mt. Olive. It's ideal to have a dog as big as the other dogs in the fight, and any sign we would've originally been allowed to erect wouldn't compete with the other billboards placed along the highway. We are solving this issue by rezoning to become highway

business. That will give us the ability to put up a 250ft sign advertising the correct exit (356) for our course big enough to stand with the "big dogs". It was incorrectly zoned the first time, but my fingers are crossed that it will go through properly the second time...maybe without the act of Congress.

Another matter on the agenda will be a great addition to the beautiful neighborhood here on the course. The land is currently being surveyed so we can construct assisted living patio homes for the older people in our area. I believe we have the perfect site in which to place these homes, and our clubhouse will be available for the residents to have breakfast and lunch 7 days a week, as well as dinner twice a week on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. I have done a lot of research on these types of homes and feel confident that they will be successful.

Superintendent's Corner

It's that time of year! We will likely start having short delays due to frost or frozen greens as our temperatures continue to drop. I would like to inform you of the damage that may occur from playing on a frozen green or green with frost on it so that everyone will know the importance of our delays.

Frost occurs when the temperatures fall near or below freezing causing the dew to crystallize on the outside structure of the cell walls on plant tissue. A putting green is made up of millions of individual grass plants that grow tightly together, and are fragile due

to the height in which they must be cut to maintain a true, smooth surface for golfing. When the plant tissue is frozen, or frost is present, it can damage the cell membrane by crushing it like an egg. This damage is unreparable, and decreases functionality within the plant. The damage cannot be seen immediately, however within 48 to 72 hours, the leaves die and turn brown leaving the greens with an unsightly appearance, and rough playing surface. During the cold winter months, the turf grows significantly slower, or not at all, causing any damaged turf to take longer to heal.



I hope this gives everyone a better understanding of the importance of our frost delays, and prompts you to be as patient as I am when it comes to the health and playability of our greens. Our website is updated by 8am every morning with information about delays for the day, and I will try everything in my power to get you playing as soon as possible.

I would also like to remind everyone to please repair your ball marks after every shot. We aren't topdressing the greens during the winter, and usually topdressing helps the greens stay smooth from unseen or forgotten ball marks during growing season.

Thank you for your patience and understanding, and please help keep Lane Tree a beautiful, pleasant place to play golf.

Chad Matthews

Pro Shop News

This month we installed new GPS units on the remainder of our cart fleet, and if you haven't used one yet you should definitely check them out. Anyone in the pro shop will be happy to explain their capabilities, and offer any other assistance you may need. Initially, we have the yardage and shot tracking features enabled, and down the road we plan on adding the ability to order food from the grill during your round. With the enhanced capabilities that these carts provide, we will no longer be using the blue handicapped flags. We are setting up "zones" around the greens, as well as a few trees, that are consistent with what our handicapped zones should be. In most cases, you will be able to drive within 10-15 yards of the greens. Basically, everyone will have a handicapped flag.

We are posting course information on our website every morning such as events, course restrictions (including the aforementioned frost delays), or if we are closing the range. This information will be posted by 8:00 am daily.

We will be running a Black Friday sale on pro shop merchandise on November 26th. Come on out for a round of golf (bring your visiting relatives!), and take advantage of our sale to get a jump start on your Christmas shopping.

Good Golfing Everyone ☺



