



Tree Talk

Keep it Simple, Use Common Sense

By Bill Lane



They say “April showers bring May flowers” and I sure hope they’re right! We are long overdue for some good, consistent weather. With that in mind, the entire staff has been working hard to get Lane Tree ready for the best summer yet.

In our April newsletter, we talked about Ella June Hannant and her road to Masters weekend. The little golf phenom competed in the Girls 7-9 Drive, Chip, and Putt National Finals and



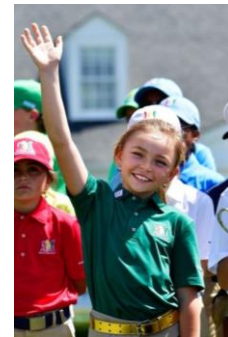
emerged victorious! Her best drive was a whopping 166.3 yards, chip aggregate of 17ft, and putt aggregate of 3ft 9in which gave her an overall total of 25 points, a trophy almost as big as she is, and the title.

To top it all off, she met many professional golfers throughout the weekend and enjoyed all aspects of her favorite sport. She has had so much support and felicitation from

everywhere. There were numerous posts on social media from individuals and organizations, and members of Wayne County not only presented her with a county key, but declared April 17th as “Ella June Hannant Day”. Pinehurst even wrote a special article about her stating they “were not surprised” she had won, and recalled her triumph of being the youngest to ever get a hole in one on their short course named “The Cradle”.

Ella and the Hannant family celebrated her success with us on a Tuesday Burger Night. We all

would like to say how exceedingly proud we are of this special little girl, and how much we appreciate her and her family for making Lane Tree their home course. Her goal is to be on the LPGA tour around age 16 and there is no doubt in our minds she will get there. Congrats Ella June!



There are 3 types of employees: those who make things happen, those who watch things happen, and those who wonder what’s happening. We are lucky to have great staff and members here who go above and beyond to make LTGC successful. Each month I’d like to recognize some of those who may be more “behind the scenes” than others. Kelly Edwards has been working in our grill for a long time. She is very loyal, dependable, and loved by everyone she

meets. Some customers will wait for her section to be open even if there are other available tables, and she knows their orders by heart. As an employee, she is observant and provides a lot of insight to what's going on. Everyone respects her opinion and looks to her for guidance. Thank you for all your years of hard work Kelly!

On our golf course we have 141,000 sq. ft. of greens which equals to 3.2 acres. As you may have noticed, there are rough spots mainly on the right edge of #6, front of #8, and parts of #17. The worst damage only takes up 3-4% of our greens leaving the other 96% in better condition. I have heard from our customers in law enforcement that 4% of the population tend to cause 96% of the problems which, when compared to our situation, sounds a little ironic. We don't want that to be the case here, and I went to Chad Matthews to give everyone a better understanding of this:

“As the superintendent here at Lane Tree, I would like to shed some light on some of the issues we are experiencing concerning winter damage on greens. In eastern NC we deal with drastically changing weather conditions, and knowing this, I try to prepare the best I can to protect our greens by conditioning them to withstand the harsh weather. It's no secret this past winter was cold for the longest amount of consecutive days and many, if not all courses with Bermuda grass greens, are experiencing winter damage. There were 10 days in January that never got above freezing: 6 of those days were 10 degrees or less for the low, and 3 days were only 3, 4, or 5 degrees. We have never experienced that before.

I'd like to give you a little insight

by explaining how we condition the greens for winter. Before the greens ever go dormant, we apply fertilizers with mainly potassium to build up carbohydrates. Carbohydrates help harden the plant's cells to withstand the cold conditions we may experience. When it gets warm the hardening process is reversed and rapidly uses up the energy that it has stored, bringing the plant out of dormancy. During this process the plant is no longer protected from low temperatures, and there is too little time to allow the hardening process again during the winter months. I noticed at the beginning of March our greens started coming out of dormancy beautifully with the temperatures in the low to mid 60's. We then had a late snow followed by several days of frost, and that is most likely when the damage occurred.

During the month of April we saw temperatures that were below normal. Needless to say, those conditions were less favorable for Bermuda grass recovery. On a positive note, May is here and the growing conditions are expected to improve which will allow us to get the greens back into beautiful playing condition. I really appreciate your patience and understanding. If you have any further concerns or would like to go into more detail please don't hesitate to email me at lanetreegolf2@bellsouth.net.”

A Note from Big Ed

“I am asking our members and guests to please park in the parking lot only. The canopy is used for the handicapped customers, deliveries, and maintenance workers only. Please assist us in this problem and I will truly appreciate it.

I wish to thank all our golfers who are returning to the course. It has been an unpredictable winter and spring. Hope the weather will settle down and give us a lot of good playing time!

Remember:

*If you cut it and hit it to the right
Ed Ezzell may teach that line of flight
If you have a 1 to 3 foot putt
Just like his driver he's going to hit you
a cut!"*

One of the benefits we offer to members is the ability to special order clubs, balls, golf bags, and apparel from Titleist, Callaway, FootJoy, and Greg



Norman at discounts from their normal retail prices. Most of the time, we can beat prices from local merchants. See

Vito or Dick in the pro shop for more details.

Members,

We understand from time to time things get tough, and we try to do what we can to work with everyone. We are carefully reviewing the accounts each month and will start identifying members who are 61-90 days in arrears. This will prevent members from being able to charge in both the pro shop and restaurant. Over 90 days past due will result in suspension of membership until account is paid in full. This means that any use of golf or range will be charged at public/non-member rates. If you have any questions about your statements as you receive them, please call our administrative office.

(919)734-1245 Ext 20



Pool memberships are available throughout the summer. Contact the John Falkenstein in the pro shop for applications and information.