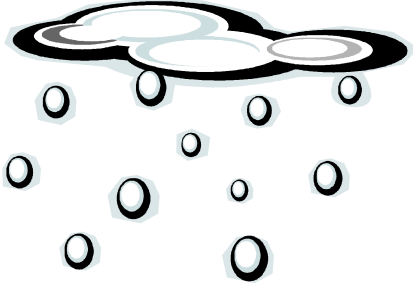


# May's Newsletter

The golf season is completely upon us. The golf course is in good shape considering the excess rain at the end of April; the month total was just under 8 inches.



The winter was rather difficult on our irrigation system. At this point we are at about 15 breaks so please bare with us while we fix the irrigation heads.

Just to give an update on the birdhouses 10 out of the 18 birdhouses are occupied. Four of them have blue birds in them.



We have attempted to reduce seed head production on greens, if successful; it will promote a better ball roll and healthier turf. We have also verti-cut greens several times and plan on doing the process several more times. This process, verti-cutting, cuts the grass vertically which cuts the grass that is lying horizontally. After verti-cutting several times it will promote the grass to grow more upright giving a better and truer ball roll.

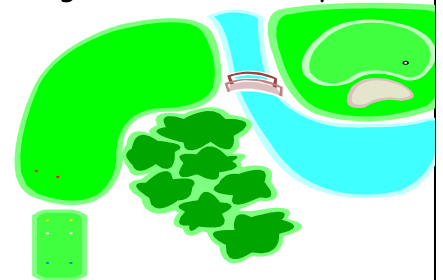
The greens were aerated on Monday the 7 with  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch solid tines. This cultural practice promotes an air exchange in the soil and a channel for roots to grow. We aerate so the course will have better turf quality in July and August when the weather is most destructive to the turf. In other words, more roots and air in the soil will sustain heat stress much better.



The grounds crew has completed 11 ladies tee and it is ready for play. The 11<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> tees have been open for an entire year now and are performing quite nicely.



We have also demonstrated a fairway aerator on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> fairway. Last fall we demonstrated a different fairway aerator on the 11<sup>th</sup> fairway and the process has helped the fairway tremendously. Now the fairway has complete grass coverage and better varieties of grass which might fair better though the summer. We have fertilized all of the fairways to promote some growth but primarily to limit crabgrass in the fairways.



Some possible projects on the list to do are to remove the right hand mound on 4 green and the left front mound on 6 green. Another project will be to place rocks along the path from 5 green to the 6 tee so we can put out less rope and to contain carts to the path.

If you have any questions please stop by my office during the day or call my office at 789-4282. You can also e-mail me at [keithAGC@gmail.com](mailto:keithAGC@gmail.com). My assistant, Chad, or I will get an answer to you as quickly as possible.