

WOW! It's March already. I guess time flies when you're staying busy. The new Bocce ball court, the rebuilding the bridges on the course and bulkhead on 9 Osprey are pretty much completed, less some sod work. The renovation of the maintenance building is still ongoing at but least it's manageable to work out of. Now we can get back to concentrating on the golf course.

I guess the real reason I haven't written is because I've been phoning my mom lately and she hasn't complained about me not writing to her to remind me to write to you.

It was very nice to have a couple of weeks of warm weather to help the grass start to come out of dormancy, let's hope this week's cool down will be the last of cooler temperatures and we can get back to growing grass and recovering some of the bad spots on our greens. As I stated in some of my previous newsletters, it's the soil temperature that drives the turf growth not the air temperature. The warmer days are helping quite a bit but the cooler nights are still keeping the soil temperature down.

I have been approached by several people asking why our greens are declining and getting worse. I believe what their talking about are the bad areas of the greens that we came into winter with becoming more prominent. Between problems with the irrigation system and the major drought last year we came into winter with a lot of bad areas on our greens.

With the three months of cooler weather and low soil temperature the grass has been dormant with very little growth for recovery. (Think about how many times your lawn was cut this winter as opposed to how many times it gets cut in the summer.) There is also the fact that in season we have 200 plus rounds of golf a day walking (not trampling) over the greens. This causes a lot of wear to the turf. included with this we have been spoon feeding the greens with fertilizer to try to get as much growth as we can out of any semi-dormant grass on the greens, This causes a buildup of algae in any of the bear spots making them look black and more visible. To compound all of this we are still having issues of low pressure on our irrigation system. Operating at lower pressures causes the sprinklers to produce larger and heavier droplets which tends to blast the sand and dirt out of these bare spots, making them appear as more of a depression.

With this in mind I don't think it's so much that the greens are declining as much as their not recovering and the bad spots are more apparent. I am really hoping for a halfway decent summer and growing season this year. This will allow us to patch up the greens, do some extra work on our tees and fairways and continue to patch our irrigation system to gain better operating control.

Lastly I want to give a shout out to our newly formed landscape committee and all the volunteers who have adopted the planter beds at the tee boxes. Every day I see more and more cleanup of the landscape beds on the course as we are striving to gain more uniformity throughout the landscaping. I can't thank you enough for relieving me of some of the course worries so I can concentrate on other issues throughout the course. The planting beds are looking great, good work gals and guys!

See you out on the course, John