

FROM THE D.O.G.

Thanks for the memories & friendship!!

As time for retirement draws near, I would like to thank each and every member here at Willowbend for their friendship and interest in making Willowbend the best it can be. Your loyal support to your club is unsurpassed in every aspect. This support has made my job a pleasurable experience. If I were not retiring and looking for a place to work I would choose Willowbend for its management, membership and most of all for the friendship of its members. THANK YOU AGAIN FOR A WONDERFUL SEVEN YEARS!!

Like a bad penny I will probably return to help Rick, Rod & Brad with some of their tournaments & also just to play a little golf and harass the members I am fortunate to play with.

I am looking forward to spending quality time with my family on a full time basis rather than about twice a year at Thanksgiving and Christmas. After many years working, Linda and I would like to travel and be participants in family activities.

I will miss each and every member's smiling face and friendship.

THANKS FOR ALL THE WONDERFUL MEMORIES – GENE

Important Notice

Any account that is past due 90 days will be automatically sent to 14 day pre-collection and handled by our collection firm. If any accounts is 120 days delinquent, golfing privileges will be suspended until the account is satisfied.

Email

If you are not receiving emails from the pro shop we probably don't have an email address for you or we have an old address that has been changed. Please send your updated email address to "proshop@willowbendgolfclub.com". Thank you for your help.

It is the start of another new year and I am optimistic about the upcoming golf season. We have received two really nice snowstorms that have given the golf course a break from traffic and plenty of moisture. The really good thing about it is that it hasn't stuck around for really lengthy periods. Thus some of you have been able to take advantage of several relatively nice days and play some golf. One thing that needs to be remembered is that while the golf course is covered in snow the geese are going to roost. We have tried many ways to drive the course but unfortunately we always end up getting stuck. Now we all know what geese do while they roost and what they leave behind when they finally move on. It is disgusting and no fun for any of us involved. That being said, we do what we can. We tried many different ideas last year to deal with the mess and have settled on the only thing I have found to work. Once the snow is gone we use flat rakes to clear off the greens. Then after the droppings have about a day to dry out we can usually drag the collars and aprons. (These areas dry out faster because for the most part they are elevated and have melted off several days before the rest of the golf course). Finally, about two days after we can generally begin dragging fairways and tee boxes. The droppings have to be dry to break up with the drag mats. If you go out and play and it sticks to your shoes, then it would do the same thing to my drags. We realize it is a mess and a nightmare but it is what we are faced with. We have tried everything we can think of to deal with it and this is what works. We understand your desire to play and we will be diligent in our efforts to clean up the mess. We need you to understand how and why it takes several days to clear it all up.

Another question I receive a lot is about frost. We all know that traffic on frost will injure the turf below, but many wonder why we have frost even when the temperatures are in the mid to upper 30's. Frost occurs on clear cold nights when turfgrass plants reradiate heat. As the plant loses heat to the atmosphere the plant leaf cools. If the plant temperature is cooler than the air temperature then moisture from the atmosphere will condense on the leaf. If the leaf temperature drops below freezing then the water freezes and frost forms. This will occur even if the air temperatures are above freezing. Frost does not form as readily on cloudy nights because the clouds reflect, or absorb and then reradiate the energy back towards the turf. Thus, the plants receive heat from this re-radiation. Frost also does not form as readily under conditions where a breeze is present. The moving air promotes evaporation of the water droplets from the leaf surface. Areas with little slope have a greater potential for frost than sloping areas because the flat areas catch less direct breeze and thus allow the moisture to settle and freeze. Frost will normally form early in the morning before sunrise. This makes sense because if the plants have been reradiating energy throughout the night, the leaf temperature should be the coolest prior to daybreak. Actually frost may continue to form briefly even at daybreak due to the low angles of the sun not directly hitting the leaf.

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Finally I want to pass on some interesting facts I just learned about. When thinking about the rising cost of energy it is easy to understand how we are directly affected. Obviously, it is costing more to heat our buildings. Our fuel budget has increased by about 50% just to keep the golf course mowed and trimmed. We also have had the cost of shipping passed on to us by our vendors. These are the apparent cost increases. The ones not regularly thought about are non-transportation related. Almost every product used to maintain our golf course involves petroleum some how. From pvc pipe to fertilizer the costs are going up. Many people don't know that fertilizer plants us tons of natural gas to produce fertilizers. Over the past four years fertilizer has averaged an increase of around 15% each year. Urea is a basic nitrogen source used in almost every fertilizer made. In 2006 a 50# bag of Urea averaged \$7.00. For the first 10 months of 2007 that same bag hovered around \$8.00. In November it jumped to \$13.00 and it closed December at \$15.25. Today I can't touch it for under \$16.00. Part of these increases are due to the rising cost of the natural gas used in production but a major factor is also the rising ethanol boom. The demand for corn and other crops to make ethanol is also creating a demand for nitrogen fertilize like never before. Farmers are buying up Urea at record levels here and abroad. The demand is through the roof so the supply is valued higher. We are not faced with a shortage by any means but the great demand is driving the market price up. I only pass this along because I find it interesting that things wholly unrelated have major effects on each other.

Feel free to call me at the shop or stop me on the course. 744-0400



*Specializing
in
Willowbend!*

Janet Ast
tel: 722-0030
cell: 993-8591
janetast@sbeglobal.net

*... I'll see you out
on the golf course!!*



Coming Events - January 2008

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

| | | | | | | |
|----|----|--------------------------------------|----|----|--|----|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6 | 7 | 8 Half Price Guest Day | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 Farewell Party for Gene 6-8pm | 26 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | |

Coming Events - February 2008

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|----|---------------------------------------|----|----------------------------------|----|----|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 | 11 | 12 Half Price Guest Day | 13 | 14 Valentine's Day | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 Flag Day | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | |

GOLF SHOP

The golf shop has some great deals on 2007 merchandise.

For example:

| | |
|---|---------------|
| Bridgestone E5 and E6: | \$14.95/dozen |
| Callaway Big Bertha Drivers: | \$79.99 |
| Scotty Cameron Futura Putter: | \$139.99 |
| Srixon Driver: | \$99.99 |
| Titleist 3 and 5 woods graphite shaft: | \$49.99 |
| Titleist 5 wood steel shafts: | \$39.99 |
| Titleist Driver 976R: | \$39.99 |
| Titleist DCI 981 irons 3-pw: | \$399.99 |
| Taylor Made OS irons 3-pw: | \$249.99 |
| Taylor Made R7 3-wood: | \$99.99 |
| Taylor Made golf balls (TP black and TP red): | \$19.95/dozen |

So be sure to stop by before we run out of wonderful deals and we still have great prices on our new merchandise. If there is anything we don't carry we would be happy to order it in for you at your normal 10% over our cost price.

Advance Notice!!! Don't forget the men's club meeting March 6th at 6pm. Please plan to attend.

Our Staff

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| Rick Nuckolls | General Manager |
| Rod Nuckolls | Director of Golf |
| Gene Abernathy | Head Golf Professional |
| Brad Kipper | Asst. Golf Professional |
| Vince McAlister | Golf Course Superint. |
| Brian Anderson | Asst. Golf Course Superint. |
| Jan Nuckolls | Office Manager |

Club Phone Numbers

Office: 636-5555 | Bar and Grill: 858-3287
Golf Shop: 636-4653 | Maintenance: 744-0400
(GOLF)

Hours of Operation

November 1 to March 31: 9:00 am – 5:30 pm
April 1 to April 30: 8:00 am – 7:00 pm
May 1 to September 16: 7:30 am – 8:00 pm
September 16 to October 31: 8:00 am – 8:00 pm
Mondays begin at 12:00 noon
Weekend tee times start at 6:30 am, Memorial Day
to Labor Day

Tee Time Reservations

Members may make reservations 1 week in advance for weekday tee times. Weekend and holiday times may be made 3 days in advance. (Example: Call Wed. for Sat. & Thurs. for Sun.) Tee times for weekends and holidays must be made by telephone. Reservations for all tee times may be made 30 minutes prior to the first tee time. Weekend and holiday tee times from Memorial Day to Labor Day will be taken at 7:00 am.