

FROM THE D.O.G.

What's hot in the Willowbend Golf Shop:

COBRA Transition Irons – “The best idea since the metal wood!” says the D.O.G.

Top Flight D2 Feel Golf Balls – 15 balls for \$15.00. Long with Soft Feel.

Foot Joy Pro Dry Socks – now your feet are as comfy as the Clima Cool keeps your body.

Titleist “demo” stand bags sale – Like new ½ price.

Titleist K State, KU “magnetic field” hats with school ball marker – 15.95!!

Nickent hybrids from TGW while they last on sale less than \$60.!!

Cobra HS9 Comp Driver. Regular \$340.00 – Sale Price \$199. Only three left.

GOLF SHOP

Men's club fall meeting is scheduled for November 8th at 6:30 pm. Please make plans to attend. There many items on the table to be discussed.

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 has been an interesting year thus far. We began the spring cold and wet. We didn't think it would ever stop raining and wondered how hot it was going to get. We got eight inches of rain the last week of June and on the 2nd of July we hit 98degrees. The poa in the fairways puked and then the rye began to go. By the end of the week our losses had stopped but many other golf courses weren't so lucky. When most guys were turning up the water I was backing off. Why did this help you might ask. Well too much water was the problem. Once the soil became waterlogged the plants could no longer "breathe" if you will. For turf (or any plant) to remain healthy it needs both oxygen and moisture in the soil. Too much water fills in all the pore space that usually holds this oxygen. Without air the plant can't take in water and it begins to "wet wilt". Then you add the stress of heat and it is over before you know it. This is what happened the first week of July. I feel like we came through this season really well considering the way things began.

All of the rain early in the spring made it impossible to push roots deep and therefore turf loss was immanent once the rains stopped. If you will recall, last year we were still sliding down hill at this time. Today we are half way healed in and the grass that is there is doing great.

The driving range tee boxes are another story. Last year we skipped pre-emergent in favor of over seeding and we had a tremendous crop of crabgrass. I vowed never to skip pre-emergent again. This year we tried a different product than I usually use and on the golf course I have been pretty happy however the range tees are a mess. The product we used has done a great job of keeping the crabgrass out but that has only made room for goose grass instead. I have come to learn that this product does not control goose grass well at all so we will not be using it again. Next season I will go back to using Dimension Herbicide for my pre-emergent needs. It is a rock solid control of all grassy and broadleaf weeds. It is also one of the products I have been using for the poa on our greens. We also plan to do more cultural practices on the range tees next year. If we do all we can to favor the grass we want and keep out the grasses we don't then we will have better surfaces on our range tees. This extra attention will require dedication from all of us. We will need to close the tee boxes at times for maintenance. This will require you all to be understanding. Also we will need to use our tees more wisely. In the past if it rained the pro-shop decided about opening the range based on whether they could pick or not. Next year we need to stay off those tees and use the mats when it is wet. There are 400 members that can use the range. All of you hit the ball well, which intern means all of you take divots. This is a lot of pressure on a range tee alone, but when it is overly wet those divots are the size of Kia's. So when the range is set up on the mats next year hopefully you can understand why and hopefully you aren't one of those guys moving in front of the mats and damaging an area of tee anyway.

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Another issue this season has been the zoysia tees getting puffy. The puffiness is caused by the grass getting thatchy. Thatch problems occur for two reasons, too much nitrogen, too much water or both. Since my budget barely allows me to under fertilize it has to be an issue of over watering. This was obviously the case when we got 80% of our annual rainfall in May and June. The other factor is our tee mowers are greens mower hand me downs. When Willowbend got new greens mowers the old ones became the tee mowers. This is a normal practice however there are several things that must be changed to make them cut at tee height. One is the bed knife has to be thicker and the second is the reels need to be changed from 11 blades to 5 blades. This was never done. They just raised the height of cut and called them tee mowers. We have been getting by using a fairway mower to knock them down when they grow too tall for the old greens mowers to handle but this year's rainy weather was just too much. I am happy to say; that this winter they will be getting a complete overhaul with all the parts they should have had six years ago. This should make it easier for us to keep the tees smooth and firm.

A lot of you have been wondering about grubs and skunks. We treated all of the fairways and tees. We also treated about 10 acres of rough. The areas we chose to treat are the areas that got severely damaged last year by grubs. The fact of the matter is if turf is irrigated it is prone to get grubs. We irrigate almost all of our golf course therefore to not have grub damage we would have to treat the entire 160 acres of mowed turfgrass. This would cost at least \$25,000 every season. We don't have the funds for that and even if we did I would use it to buy a new greens mower not grub control. The areas we treated have stayed pretty much grub free. However, all it did was move the problem to new areas and outside where we treated. We now have more known areas to go after next year but we will never be 100% grub free. It is just not going to happen. One thing we are trying is to trap the skunks. If Skunks were not digging them up grubs would not be half the problem they are. We began trapping three weeks ago and have already "relocated" 14 skunks. This is not cheap either but it is more feasible than applying grub control to the entire golf course. We will begin trapping earlier next season and see how it goes.

A few people have complained about us not mowing cleanup on weekends. If you will recall when I got here almost two years ago every green out here had a ring around them and most had bare spots within that ring too. I changed the practices that were causing that ring, the main one being mowing cleanup too often. For the entire time I have been here we have been mowing it on Monday and Friday for sure and as needed on Wednesdays. The only time we have ever mowed a cleanup lap on weekends has been for special tournaments such as member guest. The fact is it is not a necessary thing except when the greens are growing rapidly. This became an issue two weeks after we punched the greens. I had the greens pumped up on fertilizer so they would heal and our mower was not cutting well being as we had run tons of sand through it for two weeks. The greens were shaggy and we should have cut cleanup sooner. I think that if we continue with what we have been doing but remember to modify the plan, as needed we should be fine. I just don't want to see the mower ring again. I have been told that if we just went slower we would not make this ring. It is not an issue of speed in my opinion. No matter how fast or slow you go the fact is you still have three tires running in the same grooves. When we mow the greens we alternate between four directions so we spread the wear over the entire surface of the green. We skip cleanup as much as possible to avoid driving in the same place and creating the ring. We will however do a better job of modifying the plan when needed.

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We have many challenges here at Willowbend. Our irrigation system leaves much to be desired. Many times we want and should do other things but have to dig a leak instead. Even if it didn't blow up all the time, it's just too old to be reliable. We have homeowner issues that take up tons of time and resources. Our bunkers and cart paths need constant maintenance. Not to mention, the native and three tunnels that present plenty of problems. These are all things that fight for time and money and unfortunately they all can't be satisfied at once. It is up to me to balance and juggle them all. Everything I do is deliberate. I think through things thoroughly and have formed my methods based on what I have learned in 14 years of maintaining six golf courses. Sometimes you may not understand or agree with my decisions. When this happens please call me or stop me on the golf course. I will explain my thought process and listen to yours. I can't promise that you will change my mind but if you do I will thank you for a better way, method, or idea. 744-0400

Men's Club Results

Closing Event - ABCD Scramble

1st	Ben York, Pat Quincy, Richard Anderson, Alan Phares
2nd	Don Zinn, Doug Thurwanger, Dan Zimmerman, Chuck Miller
Tie – 3rd	Rick Gay, Donovan Blanks, Bill Higginbotham, Jim Noel
Tie – 3rd	Jay Wyckoff, Bob Hill, Steve Ball, Larry Peterson
5th	Bryan Hatcher, Mark Silveous, Wayne Rea, H.W. Colliler

Ladies Club Results

The 2007 WGAW 18 hole team play season is complete. The 1st team for Willowbend placed 3rd in gross and won 2nd in net. The 2nd team placed 3rd in gross and won 1st in net. This is the second year in a row that Willowbend has had both teams as winners. Great work ladies! Thank you to the following ladies for playing this year: Carolyn Bell, Debbie Christiansen, Jan Davis, Missy Donaldson, Sarah Downey, Toni Gile, Suzy Haggerty, Jane Luellen, Rosanne Luna, Pat May, Judy Nichols, Jacque Sabolik, Pat Schroeder, Sharon Smith, Wendy Turriff, Kay Watts, and Sherrie Wynkoop.



Specializing

in

Willowbend!

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

Coming Events - October 2007

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
	1 Sisters of St. Joe	2	3	4 Ladies Team Play 4:45 pm	5 Prather	6
7	8 Trinity	9 Half Price Guest Day	10	11	12	13
14 Rock Road Rumble 3:00 pm	15 Gals on the Green	16 Ladies Team Play 8:00 am	17	18	19	20
21 Coleman Putting Team Champ.	22	23	24	25	26	27 Ladies Last Blast
28	29	30	31			

Coming Events - November 2007

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

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.