

RIVERS NOTES

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WRAPPING UP THE SEASON!

Wow, what a year it's been! We would like to thank all of you for your support this season. We have had a great year and appreciate each and every one of you. We would like to fill you in on our past season and our future events during the winter.

Since last January, we have remodeled the basement, deep cleaned the kitchen, fixed or replaced the majority of the appliances, replaced the bar AC, repaired electrical issues at the clubhouse, cart shed, maintenance building and pump house, and repaired both ice machines.

We obviously introduced a new point of sale software system, changed the menu to fresh food and not premade food, added more seasonal carts to our fleet and advertised heavily via radio ads, we have also added two cleaning employees for the clubhouse to keep it in an orderly fashion.

Hopefully everyone has noticed the positive impacts that all of the above activities has had on day in and day out quality of service.

DRIVING IN ON THE DETAILS

The course this year had some ups and downs. We have a much healthier stand of grass on the whole course. We aerated in the spring on the fairways, tees and rough and have aerated the rough again this fall. We will be aerating the fairways and tees with knifing tines if the weather allows it. We also aerated the greens 3 times this year. Last year we aerated the greens 7 times. We top dressed the greens on a much more regular basis. We have started to change the soil profile by doing this and in turn have created a much better environment for our greens and roots. You may have noticed the difference between

last year and this year with the greens being firm instead of being spongy like last year. By top dressing, aerating, using wetting agents, soil penetrants, spoon feeding nitrogen via a sprayer, using microbial foods, sugars and growth regulators we have started changing the speed and health of our grass. Bringing soil back to life is a long game and does not happen in a season or two. We are on the right path though. As we keep added micro doses of nitrogen, bio stimulants we can feed the soil which in turn feeds the plant. Just feeding the plant (grass) can cause flushes which lead to more thatch and translates to slower greens speeds for our golfers.



PLANNED WINTER SCHEDULE

- **Open Thursday through Sunday**
- **Thursday night bags league starting in December**
- **Bi-weekly Bingo starting November 5th!**
- **Meat raffles, live music, karaoke, euchre, trivia, sports nights (TBA)**

“You can have a LOT of trees, or you can have nice greens, but you can’t have both”

— Matt Rivers



LEARNING CORNER: TREES ON GOLF COURSES

As everyone has seen, we have started to remove trees by our greens. Some are just unhealthy, for example the oak next to number 7 green had a split down the entire tree. This had to come down for multiple reasons. It was a hazard if the tree fell, it could cause serious injury or be fatal. It could also seriously damage the green if it fell on it. Tree roots also grow far and wide underground, and in many cases, steal water from the greens themselves. On all of the greens on the front and a few on back, we're dealing with tree root concerns underneath. Trees also take away a critical

need for bentgrass: Sunshine. Bentgrass on greens needs a minimum of 4 hours of sunlight a day, including afternoon sunlight. Inadequate amounts of sunlight will result in disease and invasive grasses to start to take over a green, such as Poa Annua and algae. These dramatically decrease the strength of the grass, and in the end will dramatically change the consistency from green to green, and the overall experience our golfers get each day. You grass geeks can find more about Poa Annua below.

PUMPHOUSE BLUES

We have run into an issue with our pumpstation. The VFD (variable frequency drive or variable speed drive) is no longer functioning properly. These VFDs usually have a life span of 15 years. Ours is almost 24 years old. It has served its purpose and has run its course. It needs to be replaced as well as our flow meter, transducer and a battery for our PLC (programmable Logic Controller). We've met with a few subject matter experts in recent weeks.

We should be able to update our pumpstation instead of a purchasing a new one. Our electric motors were changed in 2014. The VFD controls the rpms, hertz and amperage of the station. It also gives us automation so that we can water at night and not during the middle of the day. We should have this resolved by the spring. It goes without saying though, that this is an area of the course that we'll need to focus on financially in the foreseeable future.

EQUIPMENT UPDATE

Equipment repairs and rising fuel prices have been a bear this season. We're still catching up from years of neglect on our machines, and the cost has been hefty this season. You name the part, we've had to replace it. As with everything inflation has been outrageous. Through all of that, we did get a new tractor and traded the old Ford in late in the season. We have a lot of rough patches throughout our course, especially on the front 9. We are looking at ways to minimize the wear and tear on our rough units by added an articulating mower that will go on the back of the tractor, and we have a zero turn to help with the rougher areas. We'll continue to focus time in smoothing out/restoring areas that traditionally put extra stress on the mowers. When rough mowers go down, we're forced to use mowers not meant for rough, and typically are higher in cost.

WHAT IS POA?

MEMBERSHIP TIME!

The new 2023 memberships are ready for purchase, so feel free to come on in and get yourself set up for 2023 and receive some early bird specials along the way!

THANK YOU!

We believe that over the next couple of seasons that TCC will be a well-oiled machine. We are taking every issue that comes up in stride and know that every updated or upgraded item of TCC will be the foundational bricks that build a place that all in the area want to come and be a part of. Thank you so much for all your support and dedication to this property. TCC is so rich with history and by fixing and resolving issues, we're honoring all of those before us that spent time and effort making TCC a hidden gem in the area.

Kindest Regards,

Matt Rivers & Ali Austin

Poa Annua is an annual grass that is not desirable. It cannot withstand heat, drought and disease pressure. Any sort of environmental stress, this grass will die. It thrives in cool/cold, wet, shaded and damp areas. It germinates in the fall and thrives in the spring and then dies in the summer. When it dies algae comes in forcing us to spray specialty fungicides to kill the algae. It drops all its seeds before it dies and germinates again in the fall. In Wisconsin, turf managers must learn to manage this grass. Poa Annua is found on every continent on the planet including Antarctica. It is considered a weed in the south and is killed immediately once germination is seen. Ideal ratio here is 80/20 bent grass to Poa. It is the opposite on a few of our greens. You will see us seeding the greens on a regular basis trying to introduce more bent to these greens. This process will take years to transform these greens back to the desirable ratio. There are chemicals that rid yourself of Poa but they are extremely expensive and take a terrible toll on the health of the greens, which would force us to not only pay for the chemicals, but the expensive seed to fill in the spots leftover. Many of you got to see the Poa in full effect this last spring as it was a colder spring, and the Bent was still dormant. Many golfers thought it was a weed but in fact it is a grass. This grass is all over our course from tees, to fairways, to rough. This is a very normal occurrence at every single golf

course in this region. Thinning trees and increasing sun will prevent Poa from spreading. It will improve photosynthesis, which bent needs as does every other plant and it will increase airflow while stopping roots from robbing our moisture from our greens. On the front 9 most of the rough patches on the greens have been caused either from Poa running its annual cycle or tree roots robbing our moisture. Too try to leave the trees as is, and combat them every summer has and will always be a losing battle. The amount of money (on chemicals, seed, and labor), and time to try fight this environmental battle is borderline insanity. When the course was built, 1) they knew every little about plant health of greens in 1923 and 2) the trees were nowhere near the size that they are now. For the last 40 years these greens have been stressed to the brink of dying each year. So with that being said, we have decided to be proactive. There is no jug of chemicals that exist that can mimic photosynthesis or the protein that photosynthesis creates. On a positive note, we are harvested the wood to go to whoever needs wood for the winter. We have already dispersed to over 10 families. If you would like some would please contact Ali or myself and we will gladly give you some.