



grounds newsletter

This is the first installment of a newsletter I will be writing for the Golf Course Grounds Department. The newsletters will be provided periodically throughout the year featuring a variety of topics related to course conditions, agronomic practices, and golf course projects. I will cover topics more thoroughly than in the Cascader and, at times, give a “behind the scenes” look into our department.

GOLF COURSE OPENING

It won't be long until the golf course is open for play. My last Cascader article covered the parameters The Club uses before opening the golf course. I have the bullet points from that article below.

- Temperatures must remain conducive for golf with a long-range forecast trend indicating a consistent pattern of warm dry weather.
- The golf course needs to be free from snow and all frost out of the ground. Frost in the ground can cause the roots of the plant to tear when subjected to foot or equipment traffic.
- The soil must be dry enough to support traffic without causing ruts and damage to the golf course.
- Our grounds crew will begin spring clean-up of debris once conditions allow. Clean-up typically takes one or two weeks to complete depending on the amount of tree material that fell throughout the winter from wind and ice. Cascade Hills has a high standard of expectations to uphold regarding the presentation of the golf course before access is allowed.
- Hillsides must be dry to safely allow foot and cart traffic.

Our staff has begun clean up and weather patterns appear to be trending in the right direction.

GOLF COURSE CLEAN UP

We take a lot of pride to ensure the membership experiences the best possible playing conditions for this time of year. Golf course clean up is a very detailed process. We move through the golf course as a group hand raking, backpack blowing, and picking up debris. When finished with the East/West, our handwork covers about 27 acres worth of area. That is equivalent to all 18 fairways. We devote almost our entire staff to this process, even Floyd, our goose dog.



In the forefront of the photo is Enrique. He has worked at CHCC since 2004.



Juan and Barry working together to create a pile for pick up. Marc and Eric in the background picking up the piles.

WINTER PROJECTS

A couple of projects that were scheduled to be completed over winter had to be delayed. We anticipated frozen ground for machinery to maneuver with no damage to the golf course. Unfortunately, the ground never froze and conditions were too soft. That said, we hope to finish the following projects this spring.

1. Dredge the ditch on the left side of #8 (East)



Years of leaves and debris collecting in the ditch has caused it to shallow. There are areas almost completely blocked by debris and plant material causing the ditch to be less effective moving water. It has also lost aesthetic value. When the ditch is dredged the spoils will be placed on the left side of the ditch as to not disturb the golf course.



2. Replace and lower the drain pipe in the rough left of #8 (East) at the dogleg.



The entire pipe is to be replaced and lowered from the fairway to the ditch.



You can see in the photo that the pipe is exposed and separating. I do not have an exact date but I would guess this pipe is at least 40 or 50 years old. I'll have to ask our resident expert on CHCC history, Johnny C.

This is an important drain line because it carries the water from the entire clubhouse parking lot and holes #1, 2, 9, 8.

UNDERBRUSH LEFT of #7 TEE (EAST)

A winter project we were able to complete was the clearing of underbrush in the wooded area left of #7 (East) tee complex. We are transitioning this area to native grass, similar to the left of #5 (East).

I have some before and after photos of the process on the next page.



Before



After



Before



After



The only trees removed in this area were uprooted and leaning on other trees. Due to the soil moisture and lack of stability it is likely more trees will fall over time. As this area is transitioned into native grass I estimate it will take a couple years before the grass has fully established.

We are excited and anxious as anyone to start the golf season. Looking forward to seeing you soon on course. My door is always open if you have questions.

Andy Gianino
Golf Course Superintendent