

January 1, 2023

Greetings White Lake Golf Club Members!

Welcome to 2023! We will begin the golfing season this spring as an eighteen-hole golf course with the completion of our restoration on hole 2 where there will be a new cart path, new tees, expanded fairway and green surround that will greatly enhance esthetics and playability! Also new to the start of our season will be the completion of restoration on the club house porch with a new ceiling, lighting, chair rail and the use of a very comfortable E. E. Roberts Room!

Renaissance...revitalization...restoration...are excellent descriptors of what is going on at White Lake Golf Club! "The Burial Place of Old Man Gloom" or as long-time member, Tom Carmody, refers to our club, "The Happiest Place on Earth," is recapturing its original character from the early days of course designer, Tom Bendelow and past president, EE Roberts! Much work has taken place in the past year with more on the way this winter and in the later months of 2023. Through the leadership of engineer and WLGC Director, Don Nellis, and golf course architect, Ray Hearn, enhanced playability is returning to our course.

Course improvements continue on hole 3 and hole 4 in the coming year. The start date is yet to be determined. In the meantime, significant work continues on the improvement of our golf course. On both the front nine and back nine, tree removal is taking place to improve the health of grass on roughs, fairways, tees and greens. Well thought out tree removal will allow you to hit your tee shot into the fairway and then have a shot at hitting the green!!

The pond on hole 12 is being dredged and a seawall installed to support the banks and edges. The seawall will be accented with a wooden cap around the entire perimeter. Plans are being made to install a "fountain" in the pond and construct a stone walking bridge to the green. White perimeter fencing is also now complete all along hole 12.

On hole 14, short of the creek, trees have been removed to the west making a much larger landing area for an unimpeded approach shot to the green. Over the next several years each hole will get its turn in the schedule of fine tuning our course. These planned improvements are all accessible for your review on the WLGC Website.

This is all possible because of the amazing generosity of member donations that are fueling the work on hole 2, hole 3, hole 4 and the pond work that is taking place on hole 12. The Board is thrilled to be able to accomplish course improvements without member assessments. And although a modest dues increase is in place for 2023, we remain the most affordable private golf club in our area, and we remain debt free. Please note that there are donation opportunities for you to consider as listed on your personalized 2023 Annual Membership Dues Invoice. Your participation is greatly valued. Thank you.

But, whew...! Where did 2022 go? It seems like our 2022 golfing season was over much too quickly! As the saying goes, "Time flies when you are having fun!" And...fun we had! From the First Tee Marathon in May, the initial season of the White Lake Junior Golf Foundation, Junior Golf Clinics/Tournaments, WL Women's Association Golf, Men's League, the WL Best Ball/Scramble, Couples Nights, Restoration Celebration Cocktail Parties, Member Guest Tournaments, Kings and Queens, Hole-In-One Event, Club Championships, WL Chamber Music Society Concert Series, Cook Outs, Borgman Shoot-Out, WL Challenge, Senior Championship, Annual Party, Ghouls N Boos, and The Closure...just to list a few, it was a special season!! The Golf and Competition Committee has made plans to continue these events and more for the coming year!

And, for the very first time, White Lake Golf Club and the White Lake Junior Golf Foundation are hosting a **PGA: Drive, Chip and Putt** local qualifier event at the Evan McCombs Practice Facility/Pavilion on Saturday, June 17th. As you know, this qualifier invites junior girls and boys to participate in skills competition in which they attempt to advance to the eventual finals at Augusta National during Master's Week in 2024. We have been working on hosting this event for some time and are very excited to now have the opportunity to do so. Registration information will be forthcoming later this winter.

### **2023 Calendar of Events**

The Golf and Competition Committee has planned another fun and vibrant schedule of events for 2023, all accessible to you on the Event Calendar at [whitelakegolfclub.com](http://whitelakegolfclub.com). Of special note are new dates for the Ladies' Member/Guest scheduled for June 27th and 28th and the Men's Member/Guest scheduled for June 30th-July 1st with the practice round on June 29th.

Also, please look for coming announcements of some special parties that will celebrate the progress that is being made on golf course restorations.

### **Membership/Rounds Played/Tee Times**

Between 2021 and 2022 our membership rose from 310 to 339 members. In 2022 we and our guests played 12,880 rounds of golf. There was a total of 19,012 tee times available between April 1st and October 31st! That leaves 6,132 tee times that were not used in 2022!! This is one of the many attractions that our club offers to its members...you can play golf pretty much any time by making on-line tee times or by calling the pro shop!

Also, you can get involved with marketing our club by sharing photos and posts on social media. We are a very active and vibrant club, and it is enjoyable to share the fun you are having with others which helps to promote our club!

## **Board of Directors**

I have used this riddle before and include it here as a way of presenting our Board of Directors: What do these titles have in common at WLGC? A professor, a psychologist/GAM Governor, an attorney, principal, a dentist, an MD, a pilot, a business owner and three engineers...they are your all volunteer Board!

Your Directors:

Kathy McGreal (House Chair) ...professor  
Charlie Deupree (Vice President) ...psychologist and GAM Governor  
Rick McCombs ...lawyer  
Frank Lundell, Jr. (President)...principal  
Michelle Buchannan (Membership Chair) ...dentist  
Jim Schwiebert ...medical doctor  
Bill Davis (Secretary) ...pilot  
Ryan Briegel ...business owner  
Kim Staton (Greens Chair) ...engineer  
Frank Wierengo (Treasurer)...engineer  
Don Nellis (Restoration Chair) ...engineer

Many thanks for the continuous planning and work with which the Directors are engaged all year around.

## **Volunteers**

A huge thank you to all the volunteers that help launch our season each year by pitching in on the “work bees” in early spring and the special gardening around the clubhouse, hole 2 tee and the flowers featured on each tee yardarm. The volunteer support for organizing and setting up our social events at the Pavilion is also invaluable. Thank you all!

## **Looking ahead to 2023:**

- New range balls have been ordered for the Evan McCombs Practice Facility.
- WLGC policies are now posted on our website.
- Periodic reminders will be emailed to post scores in a timely manner on GHIN. (Of interest in 2022 we had only 4216 out of 12,880, or about 1/3, rounds posted for handicap purposes. Our goal will be to increase the percentage of rounds posted for handicap in 2023. Stay tuned for more info.)

- The course and range will be closed each Monday until noon for chemical spraying, fertilizing, verti-cutting, top dressing and tine aerification. This uninterrupted block of time on Monday mornings will be invaluable for our Grounds Crew to accomplish key course maintenance.
- A monthly (June, July and August) newsletter will be emailed to our membership from Grounds Superintendent, Dylan Barry.

In closing, I believe that we are living in an incredibly exciting and historic period in the history of the White Lake Golf Club. One hundred and seven years ago a group of forward-thinking residents of Sylvan Beach and Michillinda Beach Associations decided to invest their resources and create a golf course along the shores of Lake Michigan and White Lake. Through the years, that golf course has developed into an iconic gem for the White Lake area and the greater Muskegon community. It has grown to enrich decades of families and friends serving as a healthy playground in growing the game for today's youngsters and the generations to come.

Your continued love and support for the White Lake Golf Club is greatly appreciated. There is much more to accomplish in the coming years. Your Board of Directors will continue to focus on continuous improvement with regard to member satisfaction in all aspects of membership at the White Lake Golf Club.

With best regards,

Frank Lundell, Jr.-President: For the WLGC Board of Directors  
[franklundell@comcast.net](mailto:franklundell@comcast.net)

PS: A special thanks to those of you who made a holiday gratuity donation to the Pro-shop and Grounds Crew hourly employees. Your gifts were enthusiastically received and greatly appreciated!!

A Link to: [2022 Event Results Summary](#)