

# From Grounds Superintendent Dylan Barry

Dear Members,

I hope everyone has had a nice start to the new year and is excited to return to White Lake for the 2023 season! Starting this month, we were able to get out on the course and begin preparations for the upcoming season. With a mix of weather over the past few weeks the maintenance crew has been hard at work to prepare the course for the upcoming change to spring as we transition from cold to less cold.

The seasonal grounds staff has returned for the season, and the weather over the last few months allowed our full time staff to get a head start on cleaning up the golf course. We have been focused on:

- Tree trimming and removal on the front and back nine
- Continued leaf clean up within the tree lines and creek
- Bunker clean outs
- Backpack/tractor blowing of all playing surfaces
- Debris cleanup from fall and winter accumulation

With the end of the month in sight we have set our eyes on having the entire golf course in clean playable condition for the start of our season on April 1st. This will mark the start of our new cultural practice regiment as well. With the start of the season comes our early spring needle tinning on greens to allow deeper/healthier rooting, oxygen exchange deep into the soil, compaction relief, and better drainage. This will set the stage for our aggressive new topdressing program along with added verticutting to improve our greens firmness, continuity, and overall playability. This should come to you with little to no disruption in the quality of the putting surface. That being said this process will cause us to extend our delayed Monday start until 12 noon. This will allow ample time for the crew to properly manipulate the top dressing and return greens to the best possible condition before play resumes that day. We apologize for the inconvenience and hope the added consistency we gain in our putting surfaces will make up for the time we are closed for maintenance.

Many of you will notice that we have begun the preliminary steps that must be completed as our renovation of the third and fourth holes approaches. The process begins with the removal of trees, stumps, and any limbs obstructing new turf areas. That being said there will be a fair amount of ground under repair this spring from the removal and hauling that will be marked and from which you will be given relief from.

Our other major project which is in the final stages is the clearing of the south end of the driving range. This area will be used to fill on the renovation project for hole 3 and will eventually become an additional grassed area of our range facility.

The continued tree removal, trimming, and stump grinding damage across the rest of the course will be systematically repaired to focus on areas closest to hitting surfaces

first and then working our way deeper into the rough. These areas will be marked accordingly and relief will be provided as new turf is established.

Last, we will continue to monitor the weather as we approach the beginning of the season to better assess the access of carts to the golf course. It is our hope for a warm dry spring with no hindrance from Mother Nature. This will allow us to jump full force into our agronomic practices and deliver the finest conditions for everyone to enjoy.

If there are any questions or concerns from a golf or maintenance stand point feel free to contact me.

All the best,  
Dylan Barry  
Golf Course Superintendent