



White Lake Golf Club

2011

Dear Fellow Members,

The White Lake Golf Club has received a significant gift from Rick McCombs, his wife Katrina Veerhusen and their daughter Claire in memory of their late son and brother, Evan McCombs. Evan loved playing golf at the White Lake Golf Club, and his family wanted to fund a project on the course that not only would be a fitting memorial, but also foster a love for the game in others, particularly young people.

For some time we have been aware that the combination of new technology and powerful young players have made our old driving range obsolete, so much so that we had to switch to 70% balls to prevent the big hitters from inadvertently bombarding the Mahoney's house at the end of the range. It also lacks certain features more up to date ranges have. After careful deliberation, your board agreed to accept the McCombs/Veerhusen family gift and build a new practice facility.

Named the "White Lake Golf Club Practice Facility, In Loving Memory of Evan McCombs (1984-2003)," it will be located on the south end of the forty acres the club owns to the left (east) of the fourth hole. To get a sense about its location, go to a midpoint between the two large white pines on the left side of the fourth hole and turn left into the woods. This portion of our land is relatively flat, and stretches all the way to Lamos Road. It is large enough to accommodate a range of at least 325 yards; this means we can go back to hitting real golf balls. There will also be a practice green that will have several chipping areas and a few bunkers. To one side of the practice tee there will be another trap for practicing long bunker shots. The tee itself will be wide and deep and include some permanent artificial tees.

Access will be by a lane we will build off Michillinda Road, to a parking area that will accommodate 35 cars. We realize this is further away than our current practice area (about 45 seconds), but believe this added time will not deter those who want to take advantage of a first rate practice facility with a practice green. We considered other sites closer to the clubhouse. This could be done, but not without taking out several holes on the back nine, constructing several new holes in the woods where the new range will be, and rerouting both nines. This would be exceedingly disruptive and prohibitively expensive.

The project will take several years to complete. During this time, play will not be interrupted, and the old range will remain open until the new one is up and running. Once the new practice facility is open, we have in mind to convert the old range to three very

short practice holes where families with small golfers and others who want to work on their short iron play can go.

The first stage of the project is to clear roughly fifteen acres of the forty-acre tract for the lane, parking lot, and range itself. This part of the project will be an income producer, as we will be selling the timber. We hope to have this done by the summer of 2012. After shaping the terrain, necessary irrigation for the tee and green will be run in from the line on number four and a small utility shed will be constructed to house the ball machine, and other items for the range. If all goes as planned we should be up and running by the spring of 2014. Keep in mind that because Dale and his stalwart crew will be doing much of the work in house, the schedule for completion must remain somewhat flexible- one never knows what mother nature will throw at the course to thwart our best intentions.

The McCombs/Veerhusen family gift will pay for the practice facility, the road in and the parking lot, the chipping and putting green, and enough irrigation to water the tee and the green. There is a phase two of this project that includes a pavilion suitable for club outings, and an irrigation system for the greater range itself. We will proceed with this phase of the project when finances permit. Though the practice facility is a gift from the McCombs/Veerhusen family, participation in the funding of the greater project is open to all members, and we invite you all to consider a donation to the club for this excellent club enhancement.

Finally, this is a beautiful piece of property, and we encourage you to walk it when you can. Access is either off Lamos Road (turn at Peter Johnson's pottery at the corner of Michillinda and Lamos, and drive to the end of the road where it dead ends at the state park- our property is all along Lamos on the right), or anywhere off the fourth hole. A schematic of the project may be seen shortly on our new web site.

Sincerely,
The Board of Directors
White Lake Golf Club

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