



# White Lake Golf Club

January 1, 2022

*Greetings White Lake Golf Club Membership!*

*I was rereading my Winter Letter from ten years ago and was struck by what has been accomplished since 2012 at WLGC which included the celebration of our club's centennial in 2016. The letter spoke of the excitement of a practice facility that was being constructed and the possibility of building a pavilion on site to host parties and other events. Also noted was the development of an interactive WLGC Website where Members could access a directory, post scores, make tee times and view club documents, photos, club history and forms.*

*Thanks to the generous support of our Membership all of this has become a reality... plus much more! The Evan McCombs Practice Facility and Pavilion are built! We have Penny Lane and a paved parking lot! The Pavilion has weatherproofed curtains, an infrared heating system, an eighty-five-inch TV screen and an exposed aggregate pathway leading to it...the TBear Trail in memory of Tom Barry! And of course, we have the beautiful flag pole at the end of Penny Lane honoring the memory and service of Rob Schwartz. We have a vibrant Memorial Paver Program... a tapestry of etched pavers bordering the first tee that honors the memory of loved ones that have gone on before us.*

*The Evan McCombs Practice Facility and Pavilion continues to enrich our club. In addition to numerous parties, open houses, weddings and special meetings, the Pavilion was also the site of the White Lake Chamber Music Festival this past summer. Plans are in the works to host this popular concert series again in 2022.*

*In this past decade we added a seasonal cart plan that has become very popular. This last season we replaced our dated cart fleet with twenty-eight new Yamaha carts that feature phone chargers and rain curtains! We purchased and installed a new \$110,000 pumping station to efficiently serve our irrigation system. We made additional grounds equipment purchases such as a new John Deere Tractor, a new sprayer, a new greens mower and other miscellaneous equipment. We replaced the old perimeter fencing with new white fencing and will complete the project this spring so that the entire Michillinda Road, Scenic Drive and South Shore Drive boundaries will be enclosed.*

*Upon your return to WLGC this spring you will see a new flagpole positioned between the putting green and the clubhouse. The old cafe has been transitioned into the E. E. Roberts Room. The room will serve as an area for small social gatherings and committee meetings. The room has been named after Sylvan Beach resident and past president, E. E. Roberts, in honor of his leadership in continuing the Tom Bendelow design as our course developed into eighteen holes. We also discovered some of his original paintings that will now accent the walls! When inside you will have a cozy, comfortable feeling...like our own Butler Cabin!*

*Also new this past year was the development of the White Lake Junior Golf Foundation (WLJGF), a 501(c)(3), whose mission is to engage young people from the White Lake area in the game of golf...learning, playing, and loving it!*

*The WLJGF was the benefactor of the silent and live auctions at our annual party in early September with \$15,000.00 raised to begin to launch its mission. Through the foundation scholarships will be available to White Lake area kids participating in youth golf programs. Investments in equipment at the Evan McCombs Practice Facility will be made for youth golf programs. Also included will be financial support for enhanced youth golf development programs as well as financial support for high school golf teams at Whitehall and Montague Schools.*

*For more information including donation opportunities regarding the White Lake Junior Golf Foundation please go to the website: [www.wljgfoundation.org](http://www.wljgfoundation.org).*

*This past fall, at the Board of Directors meeting, a modest dues/fees increase was approved for 2022 to cover projected cost increases for fuel, chemicals, fertilizer, materials, supplies and cost of living employee allowances. Please keep in mind that all that has been accomplished over the years has been done DEBT FREE. It is a continuous goal of your all volunteer Board of Directors to be fiscally sound and stay within the limits of what is affordable in maintaining the operational, personnel and course conditioning expenses of our club.*

*I want to thank each Director for their ongoing work in their quest to make WLGC all that it can be. Their work reflects continuous improvement in all operations of golf club management resulting in the fact that our membership numbers continue to rise each year.*

*I would also like to thank all the WLGC Volunteers for their contributions in enhancing our club. Each spring scores of volunteers come out to the course and spend hours cleaning up winter debris allowing our grounds crew to tend to other priorities in preparing the course for play. And many thanks to House Chair, Kathy McGreal, her husband Tom, Val and John Miller, David Allen, Paula O'Connell and Cherin Hillseth for their work each spring beautifying the entryway grounds at the clubhouse. Not unnoticed are the plantings and décor behind hole 2 tee that Bill and Donna Benedict find time to do each spring and fall...many thanks! And thanks to Joel Hanichen and Joe Barrett for the*

*Christmas lighting that adorns the tree between the clubhouse and South Shore Drive during the holiday season!!*

### *Course Restoration Plan Update*

*In the opening of this letter, I noted that a lot has been accomplished in the last ten years at WLGC. However, there is much more to do as we move forward with the Master Plan initiatives. As you know, in 2020 the Board determined that we needed to develop a long range, professional plan for course improvement that would focus on capturing the original design and architectural features of Tom Bendelow, WLGC architect of 1916. The plan includes improved course playability, aesthetics, and agricultural health of our creek, ponds, trees and grass.*

*The implementation of the WLGC Master Plan will take place over several years. This restoration project has many facets, most of which cost time and money, and will be wonderfully enriching to our club when eventually accomplished.*

*The contractor bids that we received were much higher than we anticipated as labor and material costs were at an apex. As I mentioned, the implementation of the course improvements will take place over several years which means that we will proceed as we can be based on affordability. Improvements to the driving range and the development of the “short course” adjacent to the range will be put on hold until we obtain more favorable pricing.*

*In the meantime, we are moving forward with some of the course improvements being accomplished by our Grounds Crew and local vendors/contractors. This work includes tree removal on holes 1, 2, and 4 along with some irrigation extensions on hole 2. We have also contracted with a local vendor to further improve drainage along holes 12 and 14.*

*As the Board has stated, we are committed to accomplishing the work called for by the Master Plan without any special assessments or out of the ordinary dues increases. This means that the source of funding the restoration work will be donations from WLGC members and friends of our historic golf course.*

*As previously communicated, the Board has a substantial donation toward the restoration of hole 12 as our “Signature Hole” and Rick McCombs has agreed to make a substantial contribution to the renovation of holes 3 and 4. Rick has offered to pay the full cost of a new hole 3 and will share the cost of restoring hole 4 with WLGC. Rick’s agreement is conditional on the Club and its Members raising the funds necessary, through budget surplus, member donations and/or other means, to restore hole 2 in 2022.*

*At this point, the budget for hole 2 work is \$88,000. The Club has available under its 2022 budget \$22,000. This leaves \$66,000.00 to be raised by May 1, 2022. The construction of hole 3 and the restoration of hole 4 would occur in the 2023 construction season once the Club has rebid the work and gotten on the schedule of a golf course contractor.*

*The \$66,000 to cover renovations to hole 2 will include tree removal, stump grinding, tree trimming, root removal, soil preparation, widening/grassing on the right side of the fairway, hydro mulching, four new tee pads, cart path construction, green surround re-shaping plus irrigation additions/updates. Your donations will allow completion of hole 2 in 2022.*

*As has been noted, holes 3 and 4, a much larger project, would be constructed in 2023 once we raise the money and get on the work schedule of a golf course contractor (they are already full for calendar year 2022).*

*Although our focus right now is raising funds to complete hole 2, donations may be made to specific holes as well as to common improvements for all eighteen holes. Please note that there is a WLGC Restoration Fund donation line on the 2022 Dues Invoice. A special donor plaque is being planned to acknowledge the generosity expressed toward this restoration project. Thank you for considering a donation, your donation is greatly appreciated.*

*It is our hope that once the restoration of holes 2, 3, 4 and 12 are complete it will "light the fire" to continue the process throughout our course with new, appropriate tees, widening of fairways, extended irrigation, improved bunkers, and enhanced playing conditions around every green.*

*In closing, I would like to state that the White Lake Golf Club continues to be the "Burial Place of Old Man Gloom." We enjoy our club in so many ways. The improvements from the past ten years coupled with the anticipated course restorations are the perfect ingredients to insure excellence for us now and for the future generations to come.*

*These are the good old days!!*

*Best regards always,*

*Frank Lundell, Jr.: President-WLGC  
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*PS: A special thanks to those of you who made a gratuity donation to our hourly workers on the Grounds Crew and the Pro Shop Staff. Your generosity was happily received and greatly appreciated!!*