



# White Lake Golf Club

January 1, 2025

Dear White Lake Golf Club Members,

White Lake Golf Club is on the move right now! We celebrated our first 100 years in 2016 and since then have been engaged in continuous and exciting golf course improvement. Here is a quick look at what has been accomplished via our Course Restoration/Master Plan in the past few years:

- Hole 2: New tees, widening the fairway, creating a green surround, new irrigation



- McCombs Corner
  - Hole 3: All new fairway and hole design with new forward tees and bunkers, new irrigation
  - Hole 4: New fairway design with all new tees, expanded green and a new bunker, new irrigation
- Hole 12: Enhanced pond with seawall and fountain
  - Removed the dying willow tree and replaced it with a beautiful red maple tree



- Thank you, Sara Medeiros, for your tree replacement donation!

- Established a fairway and rough sod nursery west of hole 8
- Constructed a bay system for storage of materials at the Maintenance Facility
- Installed a new state of the art irrigation pumping system in our pumping station on White Lake
- Improved the quality of grass on various tees by creating more sunlight and air movement through the thoughtful removal of some trees
- Systematic purchasing of new maintenance equipment
- Maintaining a talented and veteran maintenance staff
- Greatly improved the overall conditioning of tees, fairways and greens
- Purchased eight additional Yamaha golf carts for a total of thirty-six in our fleet

Additionally, since our 100<sup>th</sup> year celebration we have established the White Lake Junior Golf Foundation which serves to support and grow the game of golf with our juniors in the entire White Lake area. The WLJGF and the WLGC are hosting Drive, Chip and Putt again this coming season for the third year in a row! Our club also supports junior golf through The First Tee, Youth on Course and hosting the Boys and Girls Whitehall High School Golf Teams along with hosting various junior golf tournaments throughout the season. We are also looking into the possibility of beginning a Middle School Golf Team that will develop golfers for the varsity teams.



We have tremendous momentum and are attracting new members. This past season we experienced a record of 373 members who played almost 15000 rounds at WLGC!

By the way...the Board is looking for a member who would be interested in becoming the WLGC Historian. We have a collection of historical records and artifacts that need to be organized, recorded, digitized and properly stored. If you are interested in taking on such a project, please contact me at [franklundell@comcast.net](mailto:franklundell@comcast.net). Thank you!



## Birdhouses

A special shout out to Sidney Shaw (the Birdman of WLGC!) for taking our birdhouses “under his wing” each year! Sidney reconditions each house over the winter months preparing them for the tenants that arrive each spring. The featured photo is of the hole 2 birdhouse, a replica of our clubhouse, that Sidney created in celebration of the restoration of hole 2! (I should add that Sidney Shaw is also pursuing USGA Rules Official Certification!)

*Whether you realize it or not, you have played a role in all the successes about which I am writing. You, as Members, come to WLGC from various workplaces/careers and communities. We (The Board) are grateful for the ways you have continued to have a positive impact on our club with your loyalty, your talents and your generosity.*

## **A preview of what’s to come in the next few years at WLGC**

### Evan McCombs Practice Facility Improvement Project (2025)

As you know a fund-raising campaign is ongoing right now to improve and enhance our practice center. Phase 1 includes a teeing area expansion that will more than double the size of the practice tee. It includes the installation of an artificial turf strip behind the teeing area. Also included are target greens with multiple pin distances. The southern portion of the range will be graded, and irrigation will be expanded to support the additional area.

Our goal is to begin work in August of 2025 with improvements completed for the start of the 2026 season. We will be acquiring construction agreements with local contractors sometime in early 2025.

Please consider making a financial contribution to the White Lake Junior Golf Foundation (matched by the generosity of Peter and Shannon Butterfield) or to the White Lake Golf Club, as this is a joint effort to raise the necessary funds. As of this date, we have reached about 60% of our total goal of \$220,000.

Thank you!

Please email with any questions:

[Franklundell@comcast.net](mailto:Franklundell@comcast.net)

[fwierengo@gmail.com](mailto:fwierengo@gmail.com)

## Beyond 2025...

Our Master Plan has us focused on holes 5-8 in the coming years with constructing new tees, expanding fairways, additional irrigation and upgrading bunkers. Work will include thoughtful tree removal as we lay the groundwork for these improvements. You may view the Master Plan on our website, [whitelakegolfclub.com](http://whitelakegolfclub.com), along with individual hole drawings of the planned improvements. You will find this information under the Members Only tab on the right side of the page. The link is: WLGC Master Plan drawings.

The White Lake Golf Club website, [whitelakegolfclub.com](http://whitelakegolfclub.com), is being upgraded via a subcommittee of the Board. This winter we are meeting with web designers and technicians to greatly improve the ease of use when engaging the website for tee times, general information and point of sale. We hope to launch the upgraded website later in 2025.

## Social Life at WLGC!

We like to socialize and celebrate at WLGC! In 2024 we did not celebrate the opening of McCombs Corner with great gusto. In 2025 we will! A special celebration will be held that will include “celebrity” foursomes (club champions, Whitehall High School Golf Team Members, Directors and others) who will play (accompanied by member galleries) holes 3 and 4 followed by a party at the pavilion.

## The Playhouse at White Lake!



Last summer many White Lake Golf Club Members enjoyed live theatre at the Playhouse featuring a golf theme play entitled, *The Foursome*. The Friends of the Playhouse at White Lake Board hosted our club with a complimentary heavy Hoes d’œuvres reception and a cash bar.

We have received an invitation to experience another special reception in 2025. The play has yet to be named so please look for an announcement as we get closer to the golfing season!

## The White Lake Chamber Music Festival

Chamber music will be back at the White Lake Golf Club on July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025! The music of world-renowned musicians will fill our woods and fairways as we will enjoy a special concert from the Evan McCombs Practice Facility and Pavilion. The music theme and musicians will be announced in early summer. Please mark your calendars as this concert will be one you won't want to miss.

## Tournaments, Events and the Annual Club Championships

If you like to be social, it is easy at WLGC! Just join in the many tournaments, events and, of course, the annual Club Championships! More and more Members are enjoying the interaction of joining tournament play at WLGC. The Monday evening Men's League will be in its eleventh year and fills both the front and the back nine each week. The WL Women's Golf Association is enjoying the highest participation in history with the Tuesday morning nine-hole and eighteen-hole groups. There is another women's opportunity on Thursday evenings with informal open nine-hole play. Look for more information on these weekly women's golf opportunities as 2025 WLWGA President, Marilyn Howland, will be communicating with the Association as the 2025 season approaches. For your convenience a link to the 2025 Events Calendar is attached.

[https://www.whitelakegolfclub.com/images/Tentative\\_2025\\_Events\\_Calendar\\_-\\_Sheet1.pdf](https://www.whitelakegolfclub.com/images/Tentative_2025_Events_Calendar_-_Sheet1.pdf)

We are adding special encouragement for our men and women to participate in the annual flighted Club Championships in August. In 2025 we will compete in a match play format which allows numerous days to set up matches before the final matches are played on August 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. Playing in the club championships creates a special bond for the competitors as they battle for the trophy that generations of members have sought over the 109 years of the WLGC! Please consider joining in this annual tradition!

(2024 Event results are attached to this emailed letter.)

## **Many Thanks!**

On behalf of the Board of Directors, thank you for being enthusiastic and loyal Members of our Golden Age-109-year-old White Lake Golf Club. Your all volunteer Board is working hard and committed to keeping the WLGC the best that it can be! We do this with purposeful planning, budgeting and our love for this community and this game of golf that enriches our lives. As I mentioned

earlier in this letter, we have great appreciation for our Members and all that they bring to keep our golf club vibrant and exciting.

Best wishes to you for many pars and birdies in 2025!



Sincerely,

Frank Lundell, Jr.-President: WLGC

[franklundell@comcast.net](mailto:franklundell@comcast.net)

Michelle Buchanan-Vice President, Membership Chair

Bill Davis-Secretary

Frank Wierengo-Treasurer

Don Nellis-Director and Restoration Project Manager

Kim Staton-Grounds Chair

Kathy McGreal-House Chair

Ryan Briegel-Director

Rick McCombs-Director

George Jackoboice-Director

P.S.: Special thanks:

- Thank you, Joel Hanichen and Joe Barrett for the Christmas lights and bulbs (golf balls), at the clubhouse this holiday season.
- Thank you to all those of you who contributed to the 24 full time and part time hourly workers' Holiday Gratuity Fund. Your amazing generosity was greatly appreciated!

P.P.S.: Event results attached

