

## Upcoming Events:

- Course Opening—  
Wednesday  
March 18th
- High School Golf Practice Begins—  
Monday March  
16th
- Atlantic & Exira EHK Golf Meet—  
Thursday, April  
9th

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## Spring Fever!

The course will be opening up this Friday for walking only and I am hoping to allow carts on the course by next Wednesday. The course will still be wet in areas next week, so when carts are allowed be sure to keep out of any low lying areas or heavily shaded areas. I would also like to remind everyone that it's crucial to fix all ball marks on the greens early on. It is still early in the year where the turf isn't actively growing to heal itself in like it does during the season.

Soil temperatures are finally getting above 32 degrees and frost has lifted from the soil in most areas which will help with all the moisture on the course from the past weeks snow melt. The 10 day forecast also looks great for course with most days in the high 50's to 60's and low temperatures still above freezing through the end of next week. This will also help the course out and pushing towards the grass beginning to grow and green up.

We will be soon getting busy with cleaning up the course of all the sticks, branches, and leaves that fell or accumulated around the course and buildings during the course of the winter. We will also be busy digging out all the silt from the bunkers trying to get back down to the sand layer. From there we will be taking a garden tiller through the bunkers to stir up the sand and break up any layers that might have formed after sitting throughout the winter. We will also at this time begin work on redefining the edge on all of our bunkers. Many of the bunkers over the years have lost that edge due to the heavy rains from last year where the sand would wash out of the bunker.

We will also begin on plugging out the areas where there was turf loss on the greens from last year. We will be pulling plugs from our chipping green to transplant on the greens to help speed up the recovery of the turf getting all of our greens back into playing condition as fast as possible. We will also be taking some sand out to fill a few of these voids and to fill any minor holes we had from geese getting on the greens during late fall and winter of this year.

I am also looking at getting many of the course accessories out on the course over the next few weeks as we open up and begin to get busy. Another big thanks to Gaylord Schelling, Randy Bentson, and Ken Moorman for fixing up those tee markers during the winter months.

As mentioned before, I will be bringing back all 3 full time staff members from last year. Kenny Meisinger has been with the club for over 15+ years now. Roger Anderson and Danny Fletcher will both be returning for their second year with the club working limited hours throughout the season. I am still looking for a couple graduating seniors' or college students to help assist during the summer. If you know of anyone interested in the position get ahold of myself or Sheryl at the clubhouse.

Another thanks to the Men's Golf Association for purchasing rollers for our greens. These rollers attach right on our greens/tee mowers making them easy to swap out with our reels when there are tournaments to roll the greens for increased speed. Along with increasing green speed with the rollers, we can also use them to maintain green speed while not mowing for that day during times of heat stress. The rollers will cause less stress to the turf which considerably helps during periods of extreme heat and a lack of rainfall.





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## Projects

Over the past few weeks, I have been busy getting everything ready for the season. I finished grinding our reels and bedknives a while ago. With this nice weather it allowed for me to move equipment between the shops and get all of our reels back on the mowers and set up to begin mowing for the season.

I have also been going through the shop cleaning out and rearranging quite a bit of stuff. We had quite a bit of old garbage that had never made its way to the dumpster that now with it gone has really cleaned up the appearance of the shop. This, I feel is essential during the summer months as we get busy and have limited time if there are any breakdowns. By having a clean and organized shop, one can find the necessary tools that he needs to complete the repair quicker instead of having to rummage around the shop to find the necessary tools to complete the task.

I have also begun to build a few bluebird nesting boxes. We do have a few already on the course and am planning on expanding on those along the fence line and in our native grassland area. I also found two small hummingbird feeders that will be placed near the clubhouse windows during the season, hoping to increase the wildlife on the course.

This past week we began burning the large brush pile on the northeast end of the driving range along with the native grassland area between #11 & #18, and finished up burning the native grass around most of the pond. This will help promote the native grasses and wildflowers in that area because the heat that the fire puts off while burning kills weed seeds. The hotter the fire is, the deeper into the soil one can kill those weed seeds therefore getting better control of the weed population. This is typically done every

year to every other year and also helps promote germination of those native grasses. The burn took about 3 hours with the help of Dan White, Ron Peerbolte, and Mitch Peerbolte.

Finally course cleanup day is tentatively set up for April 4<sup>th</sup>. Notification will be sent out closer to that date confirming the details.



Rollers donated by the Men's Golf Association