

# Superintendents' Journal

Summer 2024

Another summer has come and gone with periods of dry and wet weather. Our hurricane season has spared us so far, but the surge of tropical weather throughout August and September have brought on muggy wet conditions. In preparation for transition from spring into summer we got an early start to our aerification program.



May 6/24 #5 Green Aerification  
5/8 Core Tine 2x2 Spacing at 5" Depth



Early May construction of our new practice facility providing a new 2000 sqft Green, Approach, Rough and Long Angled Bunker allowing for various distance shots. A protective berm was built around the facility offering protection from #8 and transplanted palm trees from #9 to add to the aesthetics. This entire project was done inhouse by our maintenance staff for a huge cost savings.



Plugs from our first greens aeration date were sown in for establishment of our turf for the chipping green.



Chipping green and the surrounding practice facility has grown in beautifully. Turf heights are 1. Green 140  
2. Collar/approach 475 3. Rough 1500



**#8 Green surround, Bunker, Lake Bank, and Irrigation project began in June.**



**#8 Green and Bunker construction.**



# 8 Projects completed adding 1,200 sqft to the Green, a new 1,500 sqft Bunker, and adding 8,000 sqft of Celebration Bermuda Grass to the surround and Lake Bank.



#2 Green, Bunkers, Surround and Irrigation repair began July 29th.



#2 Project complete. Approximately 1/2 Acre of new Celebration Bermuda Grass covering the entire Green Surround, 2 Bunker Complexes and newly shaped Fairway and Rough. 1,600 sqft of transplanted Tif Dwarf sod from our nursery green added to the green. All repairs, irrigation, design, shaping and install were done inhouse.



#2 South side view looking East back towards the Fairway from a new Greenside Bunker. The large cluster of Saw Palmettos was removed from the South side of Approach, opening up more playing area and allowing more air circulation into a rather closed off stagnant area.



#10 Project began with tree and stump removal to prepare the area for redesign. All area irrigation was removed and thousands of cubic feet of earth used to rebuild Lake Bank, redesign and enlarge Fairway and tie in contours from #10 into #8 green surround.





#10. The removal of tree stumps was challenging as you can see from the comparison in size to our loader.





#10. Relocating soil from project area to Green Surround on #8.



#10 Project almost complete. Remaining tasks are the new drainage pipe across #10-2 Fairway into the wetland, and surface drainage installed into #2 Fairway to help dry out and improve playability for the future. 21,000 sqft of Celebration Bermuda Grass was installed adding to the size of #10 fairway. A connecting cart path from Tee to Green was installed, decreasing cart traffic on our turf and allowing for carts to be used on wet rainy days with total access to golf without damaging our turf.



#10 and #9 Cartpaths now converge allowing options to navigate carts without having to drive on turf. The dune system between cartpaths will be landscaped with propagated Muhly grass, an ornamental grass we have introduced on a number of surrounding holes.



“Screening”, the material we use for our cart paths will be topdressed over the dunes giving a native look, weed barrier, a cleaner look to our common areas and a more playable surface vs mulch for errant shots.



#10. Along with our newly designed Lake Bank, we installed a lake fill, the white pipe in this picture, which is now controlled through our irrigation system. We can properly maintain appropriate water levels to reduce Lake Bank erosion, and circulate water through our ponds reducing algae levels and giving us the ability to move water out of the area in case of heavy rainfall and flooding.

It has been a very busy summer. Along with these projects, we have managed to keep up with all our agronomic practices. Our maintenance staff is becoming

quite experienced in all golf course maintenance aspects. We take a lot of pride in our work and hope to continuously improve Riverbend Golf Club for our members and guests.

Please remember to fill your divots, keep golf carts on cart paths as much as possible, do not drive on the freshly laid sod, enter and exit bunkers from the lowside and look for emails from our Director of Golf concerning daily golf course conditions and cart restrictions.

Sincerely,

Jeff Heward  
Golf Course Superintendent