

Golf Department Report

May 2012

- **Rounds Report:** Rounds were well up in April due to the tremendous weather. The report will show a net gain of 5,000 + rounds for the month.
- **Aerification Complete:** The second round of aerification is now complete and the courses are back to normal. The temperatures are helping everything to recover nicely.
- **DeSoto:** The on-course restroom renovation is now 75% complete. The building maintenance crew is on the finishing touches of the last section and all should be back open and newly renovated in the next 30 days.
- **Projects:** The updated project list is attached. The crews are making great progress on the list for 2012.
- **Guest Play:** The first weekend in May was one of the busiest weekends for visitors and package play that we have ever experienced. Between the great weather and the marketing efforts more people are learning about the Village.
- **Magellan:** The crews are gearing up for the renovation of the greens – set to begin on June 4th. Attached is a timeline for reference. Currently the construction crew is working on 6 additional bunker renovations that will take place before the work on the greens begins. This will be testing a new method of construction called “Billy Bunker” that was explained at the last meeting.
- **Granada:** I put out an email late last month about the fairways at Granada. I would like to add some information. The fairways at Granada are “Tif Sport” Bermuda. This is a cold tolerant Bermuda grass that comes out of dormancy one to two weeks later than the 419 that we have on most of the other courses. With the early green-up and temps this year it came out of dormancy with the others. Then we had a cool spell with night temps in the 50’s and it shut back down. This is within a week of the new superintendent taking over at Granada. When Mark took over he learned that they had not put the spring application of fertilizer down because of two factors. The early green-up meant that they had to mow and maintain the course with two full time people short as well as a superintendent and the front nine was too wet when he did get the time. Mark immediately put the application down when he arrived so as to hit the window for the pre-emerge weed control that is contained in the fertilizer. It is called “Ronstar” and prevents weeds but it also stunts the grass for a week or so. This combined with the lower temps has taken it well off color. The fairways will be fine with warmer temps but it will take a few weeks to get them back to full color. Last week’s warm-up in temps helped.

He has also identified two diseases in the fairways that he will be treating. Mark Gallemore, the new superintendent, was formerly at Balboa and Cortez and is arguably one of the best superintendents in the state and has a proven record with bent greens. That is why he was hired. Golf agronomy is a long term process and what is done now affects the product six month to a year from now and vice versa. He said not to expect miracles from the beginning but I have complete faith in Mark's skills and we are in good hands with him as superintendent. We also have the USGA agronomist coming at the end of the month to look at things on our courses with a separate set of eyes and make recommendations. We do this every other year. Now, on top of all that he had a disease hit the greens on the 5th. He recognized it early and he tells me that he has it in check.

- **All Courses:** During the aerification closures I toured all of the courses and gave them their quarterly assessments. The courses in general are in the best shape for the time of the year that I can remember. They are finishing up their list of detail items for the season and in general everything looks very good.
- **DeSoto:** Next month we will begin a review of the renovation plan for DeSoto in 2013.
- **USGA:** Bud White, the regional USGA agronomist, will be here at the end of the month to evaluate the courses and give us a report on his findings. We invite him every other year to evaluate and give suggestions to us. It usually takes him 3 weeks to send the report so I anticipate it will be presented at the July meeting.