



# THE ALDERBROOK FOREMAST

www.alderbrookgolf.com

foremast@hctc.com

JANUARY 2006

## GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

We have been busy creating a variety of changes and procedures in the way our kitchen, golf shop and greens department function and work in concert with the business office. . Some of these modifications represent substantive changes in the conduct of our business and as such, need to be phased in over a period of time. All of the changes we plan to implement will be effective by April 1, 2006, but may be implemented sooner.

**Receipts for everything** – Beginning soon, you should expect to receive a receipt for every purchase made in the golf shop and kitchen. This includes any item you pay for with cash, check, credit card, member credits, charges to your account or use of gift certificates. Your transaction will not be complete until you receive a receipt. You will soon see signs up in the golf shop reminding you to verify that you received your receipt for all types of transactions.

**Use of member credits** – In response to a number of requests by our members, you will soon be able to use resources from your member credit accounts for food purchases from our kitchen. In addition to the purchase of any merchandise from the golf shop, member credits may also be used to purchase range balls either by the bucket or for the annual fee. We want our members to have a choice in how they spend their credits and provide incentive for all to enter the weekly and special event competitions. Keep watching the Foremast for the effective date

of this change.

### **Event planning & coordination** --

We want to make it much easier to plan and carry out events. We will have new procedures and forms for ordering food, planning golf events and setting up the course. We are striving to integrate the kitchen, golf shop and greens department to provide the best possible experience for all special events. Beginning March 1, 2006 you will be able to pick up the appropriate procedures and forms from the golf shop, kitchen or business office to make sure each event is planned and conducted in the most efficient manner.

**Annex reorganization** – By the time you read this, we hope to have completed some modifications to the annex designed to improve our business operation. Diane Richardson's office will be moved to the office in the back providing much needed room and improved working conditions. The General Manager has moved to the back of the annex and Diane's former office will house our business machines and supplies. The library remains in place and unaffected except we plan to build a new book drop in the entry to reduce clutter in the area. Finally, we will be installing a new and more secure mail drop at the side of the main doorway.

**Reminders** – We have an outside group that has contracted for the clubhouse and food service on **T h u r s d a y**, January 26<sup>th</sup>, so it will not be available to our members on that date.

Larry Conradi  
898-2562, agycmgr@hctc.com



## AGYC Annual Christmas Party & Employee Appreciation Dinner Big Success

Over 120 Alderbrook members turned out to wish each other the Happiest of Holiday Seasons—and to show our appreciation for the amazing job done all year by the entire Alderbrook



crew—the Pro Shop, Kitchen and Greens Crew. Thanks also to the



fearless Waiters and the incomparable Bartending crew that

have worked so many of the year's events.



## Marshall Johnson gets the job done in 67 Blows

Congratulations to Marshall who fired a 67 playing the back nine twice (35 – 32) early in December. This was especially sweet for Marshall since he has been unable to play to his six handicap (tongue in cheek). I consider Marshall, who turned 67 the very next week, as having shot his age.

It's not rocket science on how Marshall achieved this feat! He works very hard on his game. Thanks for the inspiration Marshall.

Ron Stull

### KITCHEN CORNER

I would like to thanks all the members, construction workers, and outside customers for supporting the kitchen this winter while it is so slow and not much golf to be played. I will be making fresh soups and yummy specials as much as I can this winter, but I need all of your help so I can continue to do so throughout the slow season.



So stop in, visit, and help support your kitchen at Alderbrook Golf and Yacht Club

Morgan

### Tennis Anyone

We have a few people that want to play tennis and don't have anyone to play with. If you are interested in playing tennis please e - m a i l m e (rbstull2002@yahoo.com) or call the pro shop 898-2560. I will put your name on a list that I will supply to all those that signup. We have two beautifully refurbished courts to play on let's take advantage of them.



Ron Stull

The **Lucky Dog** Casino on Hwy 101 recently held a contest to find a new mascot. People submitted pictures of their dog and they randomly placed them on nickel slot machines. After two weeks, the dog on the machine that got the most play won. Donna Taylor's shih tzu, Sophie, was awarded \$200 and a \$100 gift certificate at Petco, plus a professional photo session. Her picture will be on the casino's website and all their promotions until next November. Donna says she seldom wins much at the casino, but she has a "Lucky Dog"



### Trees: Friend or Foe?

The bond between Golf Course Superintendents and the trees on their courses is a classic love/hate relationship. On one hand, trees perform a crucial role in the strategy, playability and aesthetic presentation of golf courses. But without proper maintenance, trees may deter from a layouts full potential and can present possible hazards.



Trees force golfers to choose routes of play. Trees are used to direct fairways, defining and controlling the line of play. Sometimes trees create a chute that golfers must negotiate to land in play. They also create doglegs, which increases the challenge of the course. The height of their lowest branches may force a low shot, or the height of their canopy tops may allow golfers to clear them. Trees may also be used to "guard" greens, challenging even the most skilled players.

At the same time, however, trees are often in direct competition with the turf below. The landscape of the golf course is unnatural in that it forces two somewhat incompatible plant types together and expects optimum performance from each. There are some commons- trees and turf both need sunlight, water, and the same basic nutrients. The problem is that these shared needs lead to competition. And to compound the problem, the maintenance needs for each can be detrimental to the other.

Superintendents struggle to maintain the turf while battling shade, surface roots and debris from nearby trees. Moreover, the tolerance for health problems of either trees or turf is very low on most courses. This is why in years past we have removed trees around problem greens like #1 and #7. These greens were so severely shaded that our only recourse was to remove the trees or lose the green.

Trees contribute many benefits to the golf course such as decreasing the chance of injury due to errant shots. Trees located along boundaries of a course can protect property and roads from wayward golf balls. Trees between the fairways define the holes and protect the golfers from the hooks and slices hit by fellow players.

Yet trees can also present some inherent dangers. They can fall over or drop large limbs that can cause significant damage, or personal injury. The golf course management has a duty to protect the staff and players on the course. In many cases the golf course Superintendent is held to a higher standard of duty because of his knowledge of the grounds and proper maintenance practices.

Last but not least is the inherent damage that is caused to the cart paths, mower reels, and roads by the root system of the trees. So the next time you see a tree or trees being removed, don't think it's a part of a clear cutting conspiracy. It's most likely being done to protect you either physically or financially.

Chad M. Johnson  
Golf Course Superintendent



## THE PRO'S TEE BOX

### Rules of Golf

#### Decision 25/4 Water Visible as Result of Undue Effort with Feet



Ron Stull,  
Head Golf  
Professional

Q. In a wet area, casual water is not visible before or after the player takes his normal stance. However, by pressing down hard with one foot, the player causes water to appear around the sole of his shoe. Is the player entitled to relief under Rule 25-1b?

A. No. Water visible through undue effort with the feet is not casual water – see definition of “Casual Water.”

#### Definition – Casual Water

“Casual Water” is any temporary accumulation of water on the course, that is visible before or after the player takes his stance, and is not in a water hazard. Snow and natural ice, other than frost, are either casual water or loose impediments, at the option of the player. Manufactured ice is an obstruction. Dew and frost are not casual water. A ball is in casual water when it lies in or any part of it touches the casual water

## Many Thanks

Many thanks to all the Alderbrook members who contributed so generously to the food and toy drives during the holiday season. The Shelton Fire Department distributed the toys to needy children in the area. The food was divided among the four Mason County Food Banks. All the contributions helped to make the holidays a bit cheerier for those less fortunate than us. Thank you!

We've packed away the food bank box that was in the Clubhouse, but there still is one at the Union Post Office for donations throughout the year.

The need continues on.



## BRIDGE

11/30 1<sup>st</sup> Claire Good  
2<sup>nd</sup> Billie Hendrickson  
3<sup>rd</sup> Gene Carlson

12/7 1<sup>st</sup> Pat Noble  
2<sup>nd</sup> Gayle Freitas  
3<sup>rd</sup> Joanne Nelson

Slams Freitas/Noble  
Nelson/Noble

12/14 1<sup>st</sup> Estie Luehrs  
2<sup>nd</sup> Gene Carlson  
3<sup>rd</sup> Mona Carlson

Slams Carlson/Carlson

## Driving Range Program

The first of those that purchased annual programs become due this month. If you are unsure of your renewal date, please call the pro shop to find out when it is. The fee is \$200 for a family and \$160 for a single. This is good for one year from the date of purchase. We also offer a seasonal driving range program from April through October you may buy the right for \$160 for the family and \$120 for a single.



Ron Stull

**Happy Holidays from The Bridgers!**  
**We are so happy to be back in the Annex and want to say Thanks” - Especially to Larry Conradi!**

*Contributed by Fran Sutton*

Found: New green & white Rain Stopper golf umbrella. Found between Michelle Drive and the 11th Fairway. Contact Estie Luehrs

Rosemary & I thank all you good folks of Alderbrook for your thoughts and well wishes for a speedy recovery from my recent surgery. A special **Thanks** to our good neighbors, the Hubertys. Thanks also to those who volunteered to help Jim into the house until his hip heals.

*The Dawsons*

## Games

Robin Brockmueller is bringing over poker chips, a cribbage board, a golf board game and a putt return to the clubhouse. The next few months can be lonely if the weather remains cold. It could be fun to come to the clubhouse and play some games with other members.



We have a number of other games already, but if you would like to add to the list, be my guest! Let's make the clubhouse the social center it should be this winter!

*Ron Stull*

**FOREMAST Deadline**  
**January 23, 2006**

# Gardening Tips



JANUARY 2006

**Bare-root stock.** Zones 4-7. Shop for bare-root berries, fruit and shade trees, grapes, ornamental shrubs and roses, and perennial vegetables (asparagus, and rhubarb). Plant them whenever the soil is workable. If you can't plant right away, keep the roots from drying out by placing them on their sides in a shallow trench and cover with moist sawdust or light soil.

**Winter-blooming shrubs.** Zones 4-7: A feast of color awaits you at the nursery. You'll be tempted by hybrid camellias, cornelian cherry, Autumnalis, and witch hazel. Plant shrubs immediately or put into decorative pots for patio or deck display.

Avoid walking on the lawn when it's frosty or frozen.

**Container plants.** Bring containers indoors or into a sheltered spot to protect them from freezing.

**Pull weeds.** Many plants are leafless, and planting beds are empty, making weeds easy to spot. Remove them now and they won't be around later to multiply.

Wildlife biologist Russell Link's newest book is titled "Living With Wildlife in the Pacific Northwest" Flowering currant, lungwort, rosemary and crocus all offer color, and are on his list of plants that are deer-proof, or close to it.

Other plants on his list that are durable, easy-care and colorful are catmint, lavender, elderberry, red twig dogwood, mahonia, poppies and yarrow.



Link cautions that browsing deer tend to root out any small new plants recently put in the ground, and that trees and shrubs need to be at least 4 ft. tall before they can withstand browsing deer. Along with his list of reasonably deer-proof plants, Link's book offers other humane strategies for gardening with deer.

And I'll close with the usual, from "A Gardener's Dictionary": *Rain - See weekend*

*Contributed by Anne Gilbert*

## Summary of 12/19/05 Board Meeting

*The following is a brief summary of the major issues discussed and/or acted on by the Board last month. Complete copies of meeting minutes are filed in the library.*

**Snow removal equipment.** Because AGYC's dump truck, which is our only piece of equipment with snow removal capabilities, is no longer safe to operate, the Board authorized buying a new pickup with a blade attachment. The new pickup, a heavier model than the existing one, will be more versatile than replacing the dump truck. The blade attachment will arrive January 6<sup>th</sup> - keep your fingers crossed that Mother Nature doesn't get too active before then. The existing pickup, which was scheduled to be replaced next year, will be sold.

**Roads.** There are ongoing discussions with Mason County about the possibility of the County taking over some of AGYC roads. The Board asked Larry to formally request the County to perform a detailed evaluation of our roads and to prepare a written report detailing what needs to be done for the County to assume responsibility for our roads. There is no cost to AGYC for this study, and no decision needs to be made until all the facts are in and all the pros & cons are discussed. The speed bump proposal has been deferred, pending the outcome of those discussions. Speed bumps are prohibited on county roads because of safety issues when used by emergency equipment.

**B&A Approvals.** The Board ratified the B&A Committee's approval of three new homes, one setback variance, and one revised plot plan. Fred Seminara, B&A Committee Chair, reported that there are 51 houses under construction right now, 27 of which are spec homes - the houses ranging in price from the high \$200,000's to over \$500,000. There are five plans on hold, pending additional data. The Board asked the B&A Committee for a recommendation for dealing with major landscaping changes at existing homes.

**Tree Removal Concept.** The Board asked Larry to develop a plan and justification for improving the health of the golf course through selective tree removal.

**Alderbrook Resort - AGYC Board get-together.** At the Resort's request, there will be a get-acquainted lunch with the new Resort staff. Let Board members know if you have any issues that you would like to be considered.

*- Ginny Chitwood*

**January Meetings.** *The Wednesday Night Dinners will be on January 4th and 18th at 5:00 in the Clubhouse. The regular Board meeting will be held on Monday, January 16th at 9:00am in the Annex. The Report to the Membership will be Wednesday, January 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm following dinner in the Clubhouse. All meetings of the Board are open to AGYC members. There also will be a work session on Friday, January 6<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am in the Annex to look at short-term & long-range priorities. This meeting will include further discussion of the Planning & Development Committee recommendations. And don't forget Coffee with the GM on Friday morning, January 13th, at 9:00 AM. Join us for good hot coffee and stimulating discussions!*