



THE GRIZZLY GROWL

June 24th, 2014

Issue 3

UPCOMING EVENTS:

June 29th:
Kodiak Bear
Open

July 4th:
Independence
Day

July 7th:
Class #4 of Junior
Camps Begins



The Growl is a
Bi-Weekly
Publication to
Keep You
Informed About
What's Going
on at Bear
Creek Golf Club.

My Opinion on Playing Golf

I hear and read many different opinions regarding the game of golf. Some say they are playing less or have quit the game altogether. Some say they never really started so that not quitting the game makes them ahead of the curve. And then some people are playing more than ever! Either way, I applaud all the golfers who have chosen to learn to play the game, those who keep playing, and those who have helped others learn to play. Golf is a wonderful sport and offers various things to different people. Some play for the exercise. Others play for the social or business relationships that foster through interaction and competitiveness. And more simplistically, some people play just to be outside and have fun. Golf doesn't need to be your only sport, but I think everyone should at least give it an honest try. One day on the course or hitting at the range doesn't give you enough of an experience to judge it. Learning to play golf for a lifetime is a process. Once you get started though, you will advance with practice and exposure. I have three sons that all learned how to play golf at a young age. Each son can and will play golf at the drop of a hat, if the opportunity should arise. Sometimes they play a lot, sometimes they play a little, but they DO play. A golfer's journey doesn't need to be fast, and learned in a day. Good things come with time, golf is no exception. So get out there and give it a shot!

- Kirk Porter, General Manager, Golf Professional

Gift Cards are Big Business!

Bear Creek switched from paper gift certificates to plastic gift cards back in 2010. Now, gift cards are almost 3% of our sales. We recently switched computer software programs and activated a new gift card in the process. All customers who had the original green gift cards are in transition of switching them out to the new gift cards. The new gift cards have a red tee and white golf ball with our logo in the middle. Gift Cards can be used for green fees, carts, lessons, merchandise, range balls and yes, even food and beverage! One of the best perks about our gift cards is that they are re-loadable and never expire! Also, when you use your gift card to make purchases at Bear Creek, we avoid credit card processing fees that are applied if you were to pay with a credit card. They are great for gifts or even to treat yourself to a day at our course!

Maintenance Message

As part of the plan to beautify the lakes throughout the golf course, the maintenance crew has started placing rock around eroded waterways. Hole #13 has been the main focal point as the heavy rains and flooding over the past few years has led to silt contamination in the pond on Hole #12. The added silt has dramatically increased the aquatic weed population. In the next upcoming weeks, we will be using a boat to help combat the issues as well as gauge the depths of the ponds.

“Cart Rule” Policy

Bear Creek Golf Club’s “Cart Rule Policy” is due for clarification so that golfers know what we expect from them and our course marshals feel comfortable in addressing golfers on this issue. This includes the rules governing handicap flags to those with legitimate disabilities, and the rules on the use of handicap flags. An outline of our thoughts/concerns include: Golf Course Superintendent Tim Bergmann will designate a specific “Course Status” early each morning and communicate this status to the Pro Shop staff at the earliest practical time. This “Course Status” will be identified by a “letter grade” (A, B, C, etc.) and would go into greater detail than simply “90 Degree Rule vs. Cart Path Only”. Each letter grade will be attached to specific restrictions on where cart traffic will be allowed, if handicap flag privileges will be awarded, and if so, under what restrictions. If conditions change sufficiently after the Course Status is determined each day, for better or for worse, then it is subject to change as well, even in mid-round. We want to hear from you about how you feel these issues should be handled at Bear Creek. Please direct all constructive thoughts to Head Golf Professional Mark Waltman at bearcgcmw@aol.com or drop by the Pro Shop to verbalize your thoughts to him in person.

League Play

Bear Creek offers a multitude of opportunities for golfers of all ages and genders to participate in weekly league competition, perfect their game, meet new people, and enjoy a social atmosphere. Some leagues require an advance commitment over a 5-6 month period and are closed for the remainder of the 2014 golf season. The remaining leagues are available for golfers to play every week or however frequently they are available. Please check out the Leagues page on our website for more information about what we have to offer. If you have any additional questions, please contact Head Golf Pro Mark Waltman.

Wedding Spotlight

Next Saturday, June 28th, Ashley Pelton and Thomas Goudy will host their Wedding Reception with us at Bear Creek. Ashley, from St. Charles, is a third grade teacher at Becky-David Elementary in the Francis Howell School District. Thomas, also from St. Charles, is a CAD Designer and Junior Engineer at

Georgian Aerospace Engineering. They’ve been together for nine years - since their freshman year of high school! Ashley and Tommy met on Halloween at a friend’s house. Tommy proposed to Ashley on Main Street in St. Charles this past January. Tommy and Ashley hope to have a wedding that is fun, loving, and special. They chose Bear Creek because they were going for a “rustic feel”. They love the huge fireplace and the beautiful beams on the ceiling. Also, Sara was incredibly helpful in answering their questions!



Staff Spotlight:



Meet Lauren Kessler

Lauren is a new bartender this summer at Bear Creek. She is currently on break from SIUC, where she is majoring in Radiology. There, she is a member of Delta Zeta and the Vice-President of the Rho Lambda Honors Society. Before SIUC, she attended Timberland High School where she participated in Cheer, Student Council, DECA, and led Associate Student Council. Fun Fact about Lauren: When she was 12, she won a sand sculpture competition!

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