



Rock Harbor Golf Course

Mailing Address:
117 Limestone Lane
Winchester, VA 22602
Physical Address:
365 Rock Harbor Drive
Winchester, VA 22602
Phone: 540-722-7111
Toll Free: 866-273-1934
Fax: 540-722-1139



Rock Harbor wishes
you and yours a
Happy Thanksgiving!!



To subscribe or unsubscribe to this free newsletter
send an e-mail to therock@rockharborgolf.com

Gorgeous fall colors on the course, pictured
below, courtesy of Chris Dieter



Rock Harbor News

VOLUME 20 ISSUE 11

NOVEMBER 2024

Curt's Corner

General Manager & Pro:

It's that time of the year again...Falling Leaves and Frost Delays. Personally, this is my favorite time of the year. Colorful leaves, green fairways and perfect temperatures. Speaking of Frost Delays, let's make sure that we maintain our patience with our Staff Members. In order to maintain great conditions on the golf course and the practice green area, we cannot walk or drive in these areas until the Greens Superintendent has given us the all clear to play or practice.

◆ **Crunchy grass is vulnerable to damage:**

Golf course turf is normally resilient to traffic, but when ice crystals form inside the plants, they become brittle. Walking or driving over frost-covered grass can rupture plant cells, leading to dead turf, or the plants may be weakened without immediately showing the effects. It can take grass more than a month to recover from this damage.

◆ **Location is everything:**

You look out the kitchen window and see no signs of frost, only to find a frost delay when you get to the course. Know that frost can linger in colder microclimates long after other areas have thawed. North-facing slopes, low-lying areas and areas sheltered from the wind are especially likely to remain covered with frost. When in doubt, call the golf shop to check on course conditions before leaving home.

◆ **Closely mown turf is at high risk:**

Frost damage can occur throughout the course, but it poses the greatest risk to closely mown turf. Putting greens are particularly vulnerable because they experience the most concentrated traffic. A foursome typically takes 300 steps or more per green; with frost present, each step could cause serious damage.

Continued on page 2....

Fresh From The Grill

Beau Rudiger,
RH Grill Manager:

October came and went quickly. We're still having great weather for golf and the course is looking good after the hurricane rains. We are currently working on posting the "Thanksgiving Without Cooking". We will be sending that out next week, if you have any

questions on the Thanksgiving menu please don't hesitate to ask. We just finished up our last Thursday Night Wing night and will start the Pizza and Wings on Friday, but I don't have a start date for that yet.

We are starting to fill up with holiday parties and catering so if you are looking for



an office party or something a little bigger with using the grill for your holiday party please contact me as soon as you can so you can get your date you're looking for. The Christmas Holiday menu is just about done.

Continuation from page 1.....

◆ Looks can be deceiving:

No signs of frost on the first tee doesn't mean an immediate "all clear" sign. Remember that once the frost is totally clear, the maintenance staff will still need time to catch up on course preparation before play can begin.

◆ More light goes a long way:

Shade extends frost delays by preventing sunlight from melting the frost. Everyone knows that we have a lot of trees and valleys.

Patience, Patience, Patience...

We had our final "End of Season" membership outing on October 13th. Congratulations to the winners and thanks to all that came out to participate, it was a great day!

Keep an eye out for any great "End of Season Sales" going on in the Pro Shop. New items will be arriving just in time for that special golfer in the family for Christmas. Gift Certificates for Golf Lessons are also available.

Thanks again everyone for another great year!

The Green

Chris Dieter, Course Superintendent:

Let's start with every golfer's favorite fall words "Frost Delay". Why do we delay due to frost? Frost freezes the grass blades and makes them rigid and brittle. Much of grasses' ability to 'bounce back' from wear and tear is its flexible blades. When you walk or drive on the frozen grass you crush the cells of the grass plant, thus killing the blades or the whole grass plant. You will see brown tire tracks and foot prints from the damaged grass. This will eventually cause thinning of the turf and



worsen playing conditions. Frost forms when the temperature drops below freezing and reaches the dew point, causing water vapor in the air to condense as ice crystals instead of dew droplets. There can be frost conditions, frozen grass without the visible ice crystals. Just

remember, I get no enjoyment over a frost delay, there is no fun in having golfers ask 'can we go yet' every time I pass the pro shop. At least this time of year you can enjoy the Fall colors as you wait for the frost to melt.

