



Newsletter, May 2020

Today, Alpine Meadows Golf Course looks like America's best kept front yard, but it didn't get that way overnight.

Weeks before the course officially opened the greens' crew of Mac Huff, Tristan Beck, Greg Oveson and Jon Hagan, spent many the day clearing debris from last winter's fury. JD Hagan, who is the greens superintendent, says, "With the many giant black willow trees that shade Trout Creek and appear around several of the greens, there's always a ton of downed branches. The Johnson metal rake, Alpine Meadows purchased a few years ago, has lightened our load, but still leaves plenty of work to be done."

While JD and crew readied the fairways and greens for opening day, several volunteers were either making improvements in other areas of the course, or had done so in recent past.

Mike Reynolds set his sights on sprucing up the front entrance to the clubhouse. He raked dried, accumulated leaves, pulled thistles and weeds on both sides of the wire

fencing, and set painted bumper logs in the parking lot. He also straightened the leaning light pole by the entry gate. Reynold's work has made a sharp improvement to the entrance. A first impression is important, it makes a statement that we care.

Chuck Haines, who has completed many projects at the golf course, and is now in the process of renovating the 'scoring booth' along with the help of Mike Harshfield, just recently rebuilt the steps leading to the #1 Tee Box.

Another active volunteer, Ron Layton, who is also a board member, repaired the cart paths and put down red cinder rock donated by Eastern Oregon Nurseries and landscaping which will eventually be covered with crushed gravel. Also, in early spring Layton removed the old BBQ brick pit and teetering light pole.

In regards to one of the Covid-19 rules of 'not touching' others' equipment or flag sticks, Greg Oveson came up with the idea of using pool noodles in the greens' cups which makes it easier to retrieve your golf

ball after a putt. Oveson is not only a genius in that respect, but he's a good man to have around anytime. During the off-season when JD Hagan was down south, Oveson transported the fairway mower, greens roller and tractor back and forth to be repaired, and he and Tristan took the reels to Buffalo Peak to be sharpened, brought them back and put them on the mowers. Having taken care of the equipment early on, Oveson saved the course some time. "We were ready to go to work right away," JD said. "We didn't have to wait around."

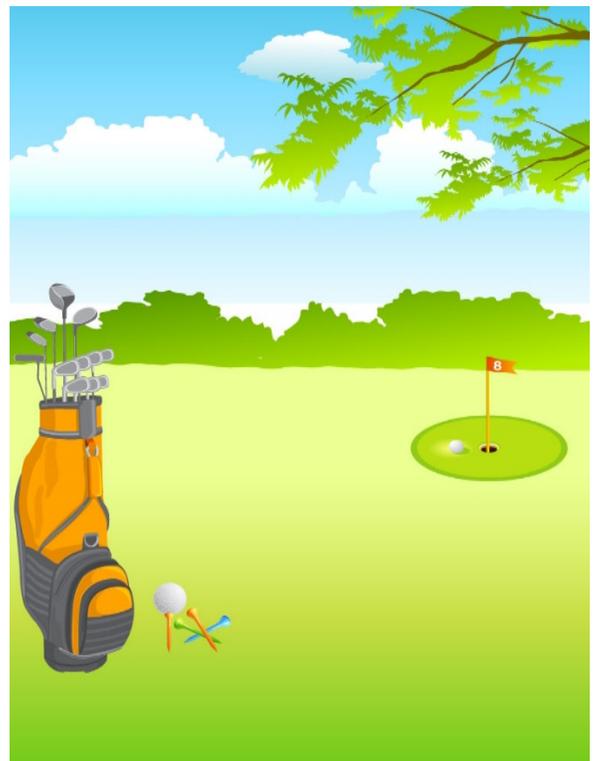
In February a group of volunteers answered the call for help to shovel the snow off the greens so fungicide could be put on. Again, Hagan commented, "The excellent condition of the greens this early in the season is due mainly to the actions taken last fall and earlier this year."

While Marvin Gibbs, clubhouse manager, claims he has nothing to do with the outside improvements, he's ahead of the game inside. Although the bar and café are not open as yet, he is well prepared to greet golfers when AMGC gets an okay from the State to open. His friendly staff, Cheryl Kooch, Belinda Kuntz and Lil Harshfield, donned in their colorful masks donated by Cindy Parks, are loaded with expertise. They're also efficient in sanitizing/wiping down golf carts after each use.



President of the Board, Judy Ables, says, "Thanks to all of you. It takes quite a team to make it possible for the golf course to work, and we're so lucky to have people who care for the course and are willing to pitch in."

And that my fellow golfers is why Alpine Meadows looks like America's 'best kept' front yard.



Not only does Alpine Meadows look better than it has ever looked, an added feature to our pond will make it look even better. It's going to be a surprise, but be prepared for a "bursting forth!"