



WILLOWBROOK WINTER GOLF COURSE NEWS

Hard to believe that the golf season has come to an end! As the new greens' chairman, I wanted to give you some important updates on the golf course.

Number 9 redesign:

As you have all been watching the progress on number 9, I'm proud to say the project is complete (short of some minor details that need cleaned up and of course mother nature allowing the grass to grow.) I couldn't be happier with how things turned out and I really think you will all enjoy playing what I think will be a slightly more difficult, but a much more fair par 3. We will be installing a winter cover over the green in the coming weeks to speed up the spring growing season and we are very hopeful that mother nature cooperates and we are able to open the hole sometime in May. Finally, I wanted to thank the team of volunteers. You know who you are and you will forever have your fingerprints on what's going to be one of our better holes at the brook. We would not have been able to complete this project without your help!

Winter Projects:

An amazing amount of work happens on the course and the equipment during the winter – The amount of work that is done from winterizing the irrigation system, to rebuilding mowers... There is a lot to do. Work will also be done on the course. We have several drainage projects we want to address; top dressing number 3 fairway, re-organizing the maintenance building, tree removal and trimming, and the list grows daily. We plan on getting many tasks done inside the shop and on the course over the next few months!

Golf Course Superintendent

As you know, the number 9 project was Matt Bohncs last project at Willowbrook. He has moved on and is now the Superintendent at Westmoreland CC where he started his career. Matt served us very well at Willowbrook and will surely be missed.

With that said, I am very excited to introduce you to Ryan Bieranoski who is taking the reins and will lead the grounds crew going forward. Ryan as you will soon see is a very hard working and knowledgeable Superintendent with some pretty impressive credentials – See below. If you see Ryan, please introduce yourself and welcome him to the club. You will also see his dog Nala who will be guarding our course from geese throughout the year! Ryan has met several members already and is really excited to make our facility even better!

Ryan came from Fox Chapel CC. He started there when he was in high school and spent the last 17 years there working his way up the ladder to be their 1st assistant superintendent. Here are Ryan's Credentials:



Fox Chapel Golf Club, Pittsburgh, Pa - Assistant Superintendent

2020 - PRESENT

- Assisted with creation of yearly operating budget, capital budget, and long-term plans for both.
- Managed staff of up to 30 employees to achieve championship conditions throughout the entire golf season.
- Managed additional country club facilities including Har-tru tennis courts, paddle courts, shooting lodge, and swimming pool.
- Managed all aspects of championship Poa annua/Bentgrass greens.
- Managed all fertilizer and pesticide applications.
- Controlled irrigation system and all water applications.
- Tracked and supplied chemical, fertilizer, and seed inventories.
- Created a weekly work schedule for employees.
- Assisted in creating a daily assignment schedule for employees.
- Assisted in preparing for, and hosting the 2022 Big Ten Women's Championship.

Fox Chapel Golf Club, Pittsburgh, Pa - 2nd Assistant Superintendent

Fox Chapel Golf Club, Pittsburgh, Pa - Turf Foreman

2013 - 2019

- Applied fertilizers and pesticides to all surfaces.
- Hand watered greens, approaches, tees, and fairways.
- Operated all turf equipment.
- Led small crews on projects.
- Participated in other daily turf maintenance.
- Learned proper turf maintenance for championship Poa annua/Bentgrass greens.

Fox Chapel Golf Club, Pittsburgh, Pa - Turf Laborer

2006 - 2013

- Trained in and participated in all aspects of turf maintenance procedures and equipment operations.
- Hand water fairways

EDUCATION

The Pennsylvania State University, World Campus - Basic Turfgrass Certificate.

2019 - 2021

Skills

- Staff Management
- Budget and Inventory Management
- Toro Irrigation Management
- Fertilizer and Pesticide Application Management
- Mechanical Maintenance
- Equipment Operation

Major Project experience

- Complete Bunker Restoration
- Complete irrigation system installation
- Greens Expansion
- New Tee Installation
- Range Tee/Short Game expansion

- Tree Reforestation
- Tree Removal Plan
- XGD Drainage Installation
- Clubhouse Expansion Construction
- Turf Nursery Expansion

Tournament Experience

- 2022 Women's Big Ten Championship- Fox Chapel Golf Club
- 2022 West Penn Mid-Am- Fox Chapel Golf Club
- 2018 West Penn Am – Fox Chapel Golf Club
- 2017 PA Mid-Am – Fox Chapel Golf Club
- 2017 C.R. Miller Match Play Championship – Fox Chapel Golf Club
- 2016 U.S. Women’s Mid-Am Qualifier – Fox Chapel Golf Club
- 2015 Jay Sigel Match Play Championship – Fox Chapel Golf Club
- 2014 Senior Players Championship – Fox Chapel Golf Club
- 2013 Senior Players Championship – Fox Chapel Golf Club
- 2012 West Penn Open – Fox Chapel Golf Club
- 2012 Senior Players Championship – Fox Chapel Golf Club
- 2012 U.S. Women’s Open Sectional Qualifier – Fox Chapel Golf Club
- 2011 Lesley Cup – Fox Chapel Golf Club
- 2010 C.R. Miller Match Play Championship – Fox Chapel Golf Club
- 2010 U.S. Women’s Open Regional Qualifier – Fox Chapel Golf Club
- 2009 U.S. Senior Open Sectional Qualifier – Fox Chapel Golf Club

Licenses/Memberships

- Member Greater Pittsburgh Golf Course Superintendent Association (GPGCSA)
- Fully Licensed Pennsylvania Turf Pesticide Applicator

Lastly, I wanted to mention that we will keep our greens open this winter as much as possible. But if there is deep frost or ice on the greens surface that remains during the day, they will be closed. We will have the big holes in front of each green to use when the greens are closed. I know this is an issue of contention, but we cannot damage our greens by simply keeping the greens open all winter.

We will do our best to keep them open but mother nature will be the real decision maker and we cannot risk major damage to the greens by walking on frozen greens surfaces.

If you have any ideas, suggestions, or projects you would like to propose, drop me an email – Tom@cps.golf.

Thanks,

Tom Robshaw

Director - Greens