

FEBRUARY 2018



# THE Greenside UP

A Sawgrass Country Club Golf Course Maintenance Department publication

Where Green Matters



## SIX MORE WEEKS OF WINTER...

Punxsutawney Phil has spoken. Six more weeks of winter! North Florida has had more winter than what we have been used to in the last few years.

As of publication we have recorded seven frosts with seven days that have been below freezing. Our golf course certainly tells the tale. Our turfgrasses are fully dormant and that is a good thing. Mother Nature has given our plants the ability to shut down proactively to avoid further injury. The plants have stopped taking in nutrients from their leaf tissue and are now surviving on their root system. The sugar and carbohydrate reserves that we have worked to facilitate over the last few months are now being pressed into action. The benefits that we receive from our aerification shut downs are now on full display. The plants will be using very little water during this state. It will be important for us to minimize waterings as not to create anaerobic

conditions in our root systems. The above average rainfall so far this winter is also of concern. Again, the regular aerification of our properties is helping the soil profile to drain which in turn is helping our root systems keep our plants healthy in winter dormancy. Moisture control will be a top priority for us for the remainder of the winter.

How does this state of dormancy affect play? Obviously, our surfaces will be brown. We would not expect any color to return until late April or May. We will continue to spray pigment on our fairways and approaches to identify playing corridors. This month will also find another run of black sand applications to our tees and greens adding pigment, that will help to keep playing surfaces smooth and maximize soil temperatures.

Minimal watering's will also mean slightly drier bunker sands. We would expect tight lies and more ball roll. Traffic control will be paramount for the remainder of the winter. In late December we started hand-raking our greenside bunkers in an effort to minimize traffic around our greens complexes. Ball mark repairs on our greens should be a priority.

Our greens will not have the ability to recover from the damage. Vigilance on our part in the early months of winter can pay dividends come May. Practice space on the driving range will be at a premium as we will continue to re-seed bi-weekly.

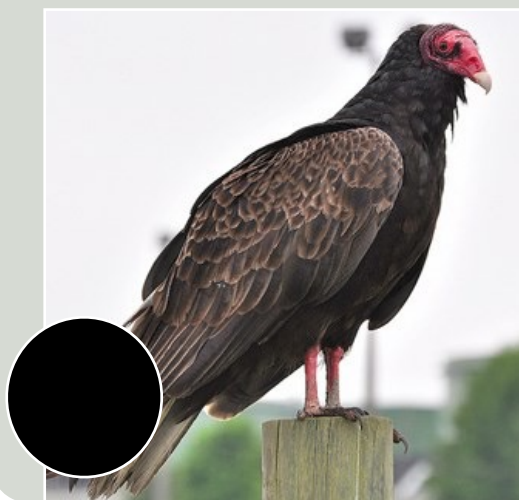
Although winter conditions present some challenges to golf course maintenance, the golf experience can be very rewarding. Many of the design features of the golf course are naturally enhanced by dormancy. We should all try to do our part to help the course along until the warmer temps and sunshine return this spring. The busy season is here, tournament season is upon us, time to shine in GCM.

Thanks again and we look forward to seeing you on the course!

# FAQ

## THE ROUGH IS GETTING LESS ROUGH?

Over the next couple weeks if you look closely you will see a difference in our rough. The frost damage has hit the higher height of cut in our rough particularly hard. The plants have frayed and frost damaged leaves. Much like getting a clean and sharp haircut, it is healthier to minimize frayed and split ends. Our turfgrasses are much the same. In response, Golf Course Maintenance has taken our fairway mowers and raised the height of cut. We will be reel cutting and “scalping” off the frost damaged plant material around our greens complex’s and rough. You may notice a small amount of clippings that we will be blowing clean. The result will be a smoother looking playing area and a healthier plant status. It will take us a couple weeks to get around the property. Thank you for your patience and consideration as we work through our winter season.



TURKEY CULTURE	HABITAT	BEHAVIORS	DID YOU KNOW?
The turkey vulture is a bird of prey we see year round in abundance in the southeast. They are a large scavenger cleaning up the country and road sides of our areas on a daily basis.	They cruise open areas including farmland, roadsides and landfills. Even though they seem to be everywhere, when night comes they prefer to nest and habitat far away from humans.	Have a distinctive slow teetering flight style either soaring low to the ground hunting or high in the sky riding on thermals in mixed flocks.	These birds are in abundance, they are a strong stock with an incredible immune system considering they feast only on dead animals and do not contract many possible diseases.