



Indian Hill Country Club Summer Maintenance Update

After a great spring at The Hill, summer has arrived in full force with heat, humidity, and rain. This brings many challenges to maintaining our course – some you can see and some you cannot.

The summer will bring turf diseases, such as fairy ring and black algae, which are visible on the greens. Fairy ring is caused by a fungus that is consuming old stumps and microbe activity under the greens. Black algae forms on the surface due to rainfall and humidity. Both diseases and about 20 others are reduced by plant protectant applications made throughout the summer.

Typically, we do not do many projects during the summer, due to the amount of play that we have each day. For the past month, we have rented a lift to trim trees around the course. We do our best to complete each project safely, within the lift's reach, and stay out of the way of our golfers. The goal is to remove limbs that are unsafe, improve playability, and restore proper views to the course.



Fairy Ring on #6 Green



#6 Green - Removing sucker shoots off Oak Tree

Trimming was also done –
#3 the entire hole, between 4/6 tees, #5 green,
between 12/13 fairway, behind 10 and 17 green, and
the clubhouse deck.

Every day we see a wide variety of wildlife at The Hill. A herd of deer walk through each morning. A bobcat has been seen once this season, along with sightings of coyotes and foxes. Snapping turtles have laid their eggs around the 2nd and 14th pond. There are also freshwater mussels in the 2nd pond, which get removed from the water by muskrats and our vizsla. Our 138 acres of open maintained space is a great habitat for all wildlife in our suburban area. The only area we interact with is the protection of milkweed and random seeding of wildflowers for pollinators in out-of-play areas.



Milkweed on #14 Green



As you may or may not know, I am a 3rd year Director with the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA). There are 9 Board members from around the country.

In this role, I participate in events and experiences throughout the season, representing 19,749 GCSAA members across the world.

In April, I attended the Masters and spent time visiting the maintenance department and meeting the Superintendent at Augusta National. (Unfortunately, they do not allow any photos at the facility.)

The Board also visited The Warrior Alliance – Operation Double Eagle, a one-hole golf course that trains Veterans to get into the golf industry. GSCAA has offered additional educational resources to support this program.



Warrior Alliance at Augusta Tech and GCSAA Board Members



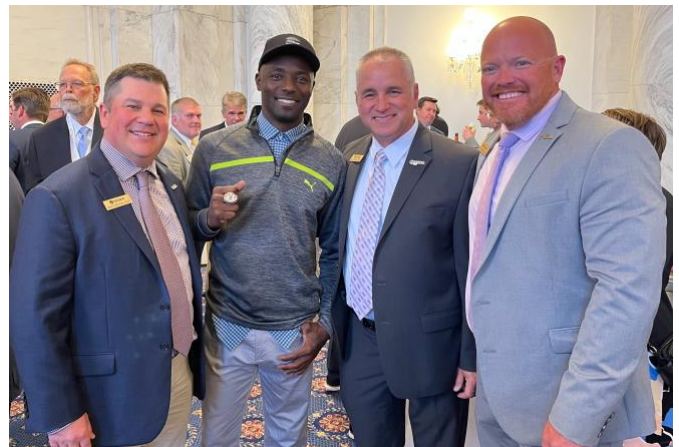
Connecticut Association of Golf Course Superintendents Board of Directors



In May, I was able to attend National Golf Day in Washington D.C.

I was joined by over 200 golf course superintendents to do a community service project on the National Mall – America’s Front Yard. My job this year was mulching cherry trees near the Washington Monument. The afternoon was filled with training for the next day, where we had meetings with all of Connecticut’s elected officials.

Our message focused on conveying the value of golf to Connecticut charities, the economy, managed open space habitats, and mental and physical health.



Super Bowl MVP Santonio Holmes

Paul Carter – GCSAA BOD Tennessee
TA Barker – GCSAA BOD Utah