

NORTHERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY GOLF COURSE NEWS LETTER

December 2013

Greetings & Happy Holidays

The NMU Golf Course Staff thanks all of our members and guests for choosing the NMU Golf Course for your golfing recreation this past season. We enjoyed your company and appreciate your patronage.

Since NMU began management of this golf course, it has improved each and every year. We have come quite a way since 2009. Again in 2013, we were able to complete the majority of the projects we wanted to get done. Wayne, Mike and the grounds crew spent much of the spring repairing many irrigation heads and wiring that were destroyed by a lightning strike we experienced late last summer. It is amazing how much damage lightning can cause on a golf course. The grounds crew also completed the turf grow-in on hole #1 and saw continual

improvement in this area all season long. Our biggest project was completing the installation of irrigation lines on both sides of the rough on golf hole #4. Conditions here have already improved tremendously and the new turf is filling in nicely.

In line with our continuing tee box improvement program, we completed the upgrades to the tee box on golf hole #14. This change was needed to deal with on-going maintenance problems with soft sand and the steep eroding hill side. We rerouted the cart path to the left side where there is no longer a steep hill to climb. This change will provide easier access to the elevated tee box for members and guests and allowed us to fill in the old cart path that cut between the white and blue tees, creating additional teeing ground. This allows us to

Below is pictured beautiful hole 9, on a warm sunny day earlier this summer.



Above is hole 12 on NMU's Golf Course, with the infamous wildcat paw print as the sand bunker.

maintain healthier turf on a short par-3 where divots are plentiful. This tee is now approximately 25% larger. We also added more road gravel adjacent to this tee to eliminate the soft sand problems that previously existed on the cart path. Cart path maintenance is always an on-going project at NMU Golf Course. We look to apply new road gravel to more cart paths early in 2014. This past fall, we purchased five truckloads of gravel and have it stockpiled, ready for installation next spring.

Also in 2013, we took measures to spruce up the golf shop. New carpeting, paint and signage were installed. Outside, we installed new carpet on the front porch area. We added a split rail fence and constructed a retaining wall.

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STARTING 2014!

Golf Advisory Board for 2014

A four-person Golf Course Advisory Board will be created in 2014. The committee will meet a couple times a year and will be tasked with making recommendations on long-range planning, course playability, improvements and other procedures meant to improve the quality of play and service at the NMU Golf Course.

If interested in being considered for this volunteer committee please contact:

Tom Helgren
Director Auxiliary Services
thelgren@nmu.edu



Pictured above is one of NMU's customized golf balls with our very own wildcat featured on it.

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My student managers incorporated improved housekeeping efforts to help keep the golf shop looking consistently spotless. Moving forward, we look to continue identifying improvements that can be made in and around the golf shop area. My student managers and I also plan to continue with on-going customer service training.

I would like to thank everyone for your comments this season. Although we cannot act on them all, your thoughts are important to us. I am sending out another survey this winter that will be emailed to our membership and will be available on our website at www.nmu.edu/golfcourse. Here you can offer your thoughts, ideas and general comments. Please take the opportunity to give us your input. Many of the projects that have been implemented over the past 5 years were a result of member input.

We are pleased to announce no change

for membership dues in 2014. We will again offer the Early Bird Payment Incentive through February 15th to help you save even more. One way you can secure your membership now is to visit our website www.nmu.edu/golfcourse and click on the "online membership" tab. We have cart storage available for rent and we are still offering GAM handicap services for a small annual fee. Our premium memberships have been becoming more popular each year. This membership level includes unlimited greens fees and golf cart rental. New members also receive an introductory punch card for 10 buckets of range balls. Please take the time to sign up today! You may also fill out the enclosed renewal form and send with your payment to:
Northern Michigan University
1401 Presque Isle Ave.
Marquette, MI 49855
Attn. Glen Rochester
Room 2102 UC.

For 2014, one of our priorities is focusing more on day-to-day golf course conditioning and

appearance. We will finish the grow-in project of new rough on Hole 4 and spend time on some cart path improvements. As time and resources allow, we may tackle a few other projects or look to add more irrigation for thicker rough.

My golf shop hours will be kept on the NMU campus at a reduced level throughout the winter. I plan on attending a couple industry conferences and begin work on gearing up for the 2014 season. If you need to contact me for any reason, you may do so by calling the golf shop at 227-3111 or email me directly at grochest@nmu.edu.

Once more, thank-you for your patronage! We look forward to you and your guests joining us for another golf season at Northern Michigan University Golf Course. Have a safe and enjoyable winter.

Respectfully,

Glen Rochester
General Manager
NMU Golf Course



NMU Golf Course on a blue bird day this summer!

