



# Meadows Monthly

## Meadows Farms Golf Course

Home of the Longest Hole in the USA (841 yard Par 6)

# JANUARY 2019

Volume 3. Issue 1

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## Upcoming Events:



## **New Rules Changes from the USGA: The AARP has negotiated with the USGA to modify the Rules of Golf for seniors.**

### **Rule 1.a.5**

A ball sliced or hooked into the rough shall be lifted and placed on the fairway at a point equal to the distance it carried or rolled into the rough with no penalty. The senior should not be penalized for tall grass which grounds keepers failed to mow.

### **Rule 2.d.6 (b)**

A ball hitting a tree shall be deemed not to have hit the tree. This is simply bad luck and luck has no place in a scientific game. The senior player must estimate the distance the ball would have traveled if it had not hit the tree and play the ball from there.

### **Rule 3.b.3(g)**

There shall be no such thing as a lost ball. The missing ball is on or near the course and will eventually be found and pocketed by someone else, making it a stolen ball. The player is not to compound the crime by charging himself/herself with a penalty.

### **Rule 4.c.7(h)**

If a putt passes over a hole without dropping, it is deemed to have dropped. The law of gravity supersedes the Rules of Golf.

### **Rule 5.**

Putts that stop close enough to the cup that they could be blown in, may be blown in. This does not apply to balls more than three inches from the hole. No one wants to make a travesty of the game.

### **Rule 6.a.9(k)**

There is no penalty for so-called "out of bounds." If penny-pinching golf course owners bought sufficient land, this would not occur. The senior golfer deserves an apology, not a penalty.

### **Rule 7.g.15(z)**

There is no penalty for a ball in a water hazard, as golf balls should float. Senior golfers should not be penalized for manufacturers' shortcomings.

### **Rule 8.k.9(s)**

Advertisements claim that golf scores can be improved by purchasing new golf equipment. Since this is financially difficult for many senior golfers, one-half stroke per hole may be subtracted for using old equipment.

Fellow Fools: Please advise all your senior friends of these important rule updates. I know we are not all Seniors yet, but now we can look forward to our game improving when we get there



# Year in Review



**NEW CARTS**



**CART PATH ONLY**



**BUSHROD**



**VOTED BEST IN REGION**



**MONEY RAISED**



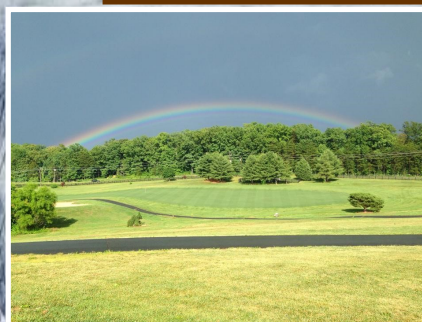
**RECORD RAIN**



**VIRGINIA LIVING**



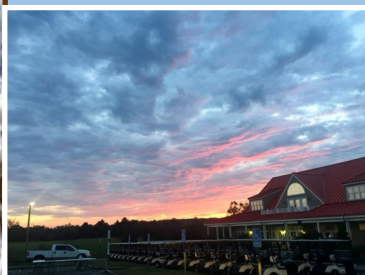
**TEE BOX IMPROVEMENTS**



**IMPECCABLE SHAPE**



**A FEW LESS TREES**



**MANY MANY MORNING TOURNAMENTS**



**JOSH & VICTORIA WEDDING**



**AND SNOW TO END THE YEAR**



## 5 Things You Can Do To Save Strokes...NOW!

Darryl Trudeau

I have nothing against a 'Breakfast Ball' on occasion in a friendly game of golf, but if you consider the first 3 holes your warm up...this is for you!

### Part I Ease Into It

#### Step 1: Time Management

Don't run straight from the parking lot to first tee...

Get checked in 45-60 minutes before a round so you have plenty of time to grab a snack, hit the restroom, greet the Staff & friends, warm up properly, and get hydrated.

This will help keep your mind calm and keep you from feeling too hyped up or rushed when you tee off!

#### Step 2: Hit the Range

I recommend all of my Students develop a consistent pattern of clubs to warm up with over 20-40 minutes.

I like to hit about 5 balls each in an order like this: 9-7-4-2Hybrid-3Wood-Driver-7-6-5-8-PW-SW...then, whichever club I'm teeing off with on the first hole...generally Driver or 3wood.

Essentially, short clubs, to long clubs, and back to short irons and wedges. Then I rehearse my first tee shot 3-4 times.

Hit 30-60 balls to very specific targets.

Your first 10-15 swings should be at about 30-50% normal speed...off of a tee...then gradually increase to full speed.

If you're in a rush, try to hit about 5 balls with a short iron, a mid iron, a wood and your driver.

Once warmed up, you should start seeing some sort of predictable/reliable shot shape for the day and can move that shape around the golf course!

#### Step 3: Chip & Putt

Some courses don't allow Chipping at the Putting Green. That's fine. Chip a few on the range. 3-5 balls with 2-4 clubs should be sufficient. You won't be able to judge the roll very well, but you should be able to dial in some useful idea of the contact and spin you're producing, and dial in some landing area accuracy.

If you can Chip into the Putting Green, drop 2-3 balls from 3-5 spots, and try to hit various targets of about 1-square foot at a few different distances. Hitting your intended landing area is key in Chipping.

If the green isn't too crowded, try to hole a couple!

Once on the course, as part of your Pre-shot Routine, try to visualize the flight and roll-out for each club.

For Putting, drop 3 balls and work in a circle from 3-6 feet. Work around the hole from 3-4 locations to get an idea of your stroke quality for the day and speed of the green.

To get a feel for mid and long range putts, drop 3 balls from about 12, 20 & 30 feet and putt uphill & downhill to 1-3 holes. Finish with a few 25 foot left-to-right and right-to-left sweepers from a couple different directions.

This should give you some idea of what to expect on the greens for the day!





**THE RIGHT CLUB  
CAN MAKE A BIG  
DIFFERENCE**

**choose your club carefully**





# WHAT DOES IT TAKE?

A STATISTICAL LOOK AT THE RARITY OF A HOLE IN ONE...



**450 MILLION ROUNDS** OF GOLF ARE PLAYED EACH YEAR

A HOLE IN ONE IS SCORED **ONCE IN EVERY 3,500 ROUNDS!**

**OVER 128,000** HOLES IN ONE ARE SCORED EACH YEAR

**12%** % of GOLFERS WHO MAKE A HOLE IN ONE EACH YEAR

AVERAGE HANDICAP



**45%** OF HOLES IN ONE ARE MADE WITH A TITLEIST BALL

**#1 TITLEIST**

**CAN YOU DO IT AGAIN? ODDS OF MULTIPLE HOLES IN ONE**

2 HOLES IN ONE IN ONE ROUND

**67 Million to 1**

OF GOLFERS WHO MAKE A HOLE ONE...

**14%** SINK IT A 2nd TIME

**9%** MADE 3 OR MORE!

**26**

MOST HOLES IN ONE SCORED BY ONE PERSON

**57%**

OF HOLES IN ONE ARE MADE BY MID-HANDICAPPERS (10-19)

**24** AVERAGE YEARS OF EXPERIENCE



**40%** OF HOLES IN ONE ARE MADE WITH A 7, 8 OR 9 IRON

**60%** OF HOLE IN ONE GOLFERS ARE 50 OR OLDER

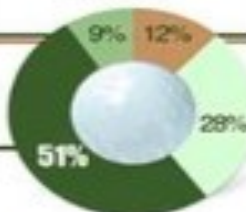
\* 10-29  
\* 30-49  
\* 50-69  
\* 70+



LONGEST HOLE IN ONE: 404 YARDS

AVERAGE HOLE LENGTH: 147 YARDS

SHORTEST HOLE IN ONE: 30 YARDS



[www.NATIONALHOLEINONEREGISTRY.com](http://www.NATIONALHOLEINONEREGISTRY.com)



[www.HOLEINONETROPHIES.com](http://www.HOLEINONETROPHIES.com)

Source: Based on approximately 30,000 holes in one registered at National Hole in One Registry from May 2009 - June 2013.

ACE



# Swing Dynamics GOLF



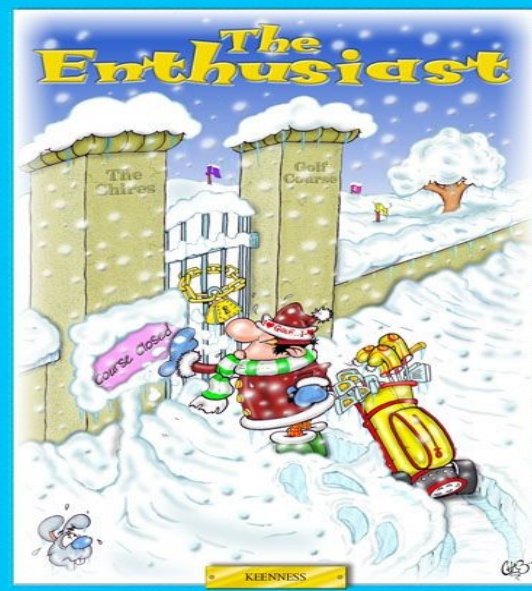
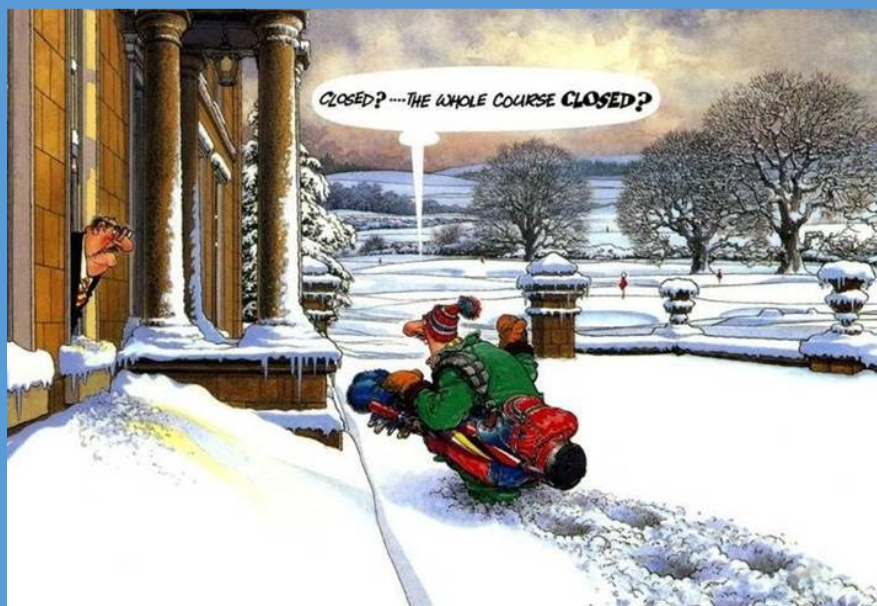
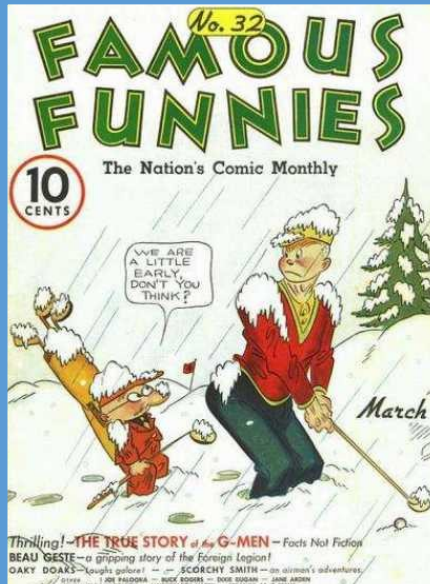
at the

# FARM

Swing Dynamics Golf gave the Farm a lesson in technology for a couple days in December. Members were given a 15 minute lesson on their swing with adjustments given by Darryl Trudeau. Each member was emailed a video of their time and swing along with all the input given by the technology including club speed, ball speed, ball spin, and club angle at contact. Plenty of information to make a golfer think the rest of the winter. Thanks Darryl Trudeau, you sparked an interest in continuing this training.



# ONE THE LIGHTER SIDE





## The Clock Putting Drill

If you want to shoot lower scores you have to be able to make the short ones, this putting drill will help. There's nothing more frustrating than having a 3-foot par putt and walking away with bogey. It happens to everyone, but the more you practice and learn how to putt consistently, the more you'll see the ball fall into the hole. The clock drill is one of the best



ways to improve your consistency on 3-8 foot putts.

How to

do the Clock Putting Drill Take 12 balls to the putting green and place them around the cup in 2-3 foot intervals. Start with the 4 closest to the hole and work your way outward. Every time you miss, restart the drill.

## The Manilla Folder Putting Drill



This is one of the best putting drills to work on controlling the speed of your putts. Putting speed drills are crucial for lag putting and avoiding the dreaded 3-putt. How to do the Manilla Folder Putting Drill Set a manila folder on the practice green 6-10 feet away from you on a level surface. Roll putts and try to have them stop on the folder. The fast surface of the folder is difficult to hold, making you have to focus on the speed of your putt. This drill really comes in handy on the slippery short ones.



# Jordan Spieth: Sharpen Your Putting With My Two Favorite Games

Putting practice can be a snooze fest if you don't do something to spice it up. My coach, Cameron McCormick, and I have come up with two games that will help improve the speed and accuracy of your putts—without the boredom. Play these games for about 15 minutes when you practice.

## **LEAP FROG**

This game is great for speed. Place a ball marker on the green five feet away on a gentle upslope or downslope. Putt to the marker, trying to stop the ball no more than six inches past it. But that's only half of the challenge. The tough part is that you have to predict right after you strike the ball whether you've hit a successful putt.

Regardless of the outcome, roll another putt with the goal of reaching the first ball but not going more than six inches past it. Again, try to predict the outcome as soon as you hit the putt. Keep going until you get out to 10 feet.

You can keep score, too. Your objective is to avoid getting points. You add a point every time you're unsuccessful with the putt and the prediction, or even the prediction. (Remember, you're trying to develop feel here, so the prediction is the key.) If a putt is unsuccessful but you predict the failed attempt, you get a half point. Hit a good putt and predict it, and you add no points. If you're playing against someone, the player with the fewest points when you reach 10 feet wins. If you're playing alone, try to beat your lowest score. You can tailor this game to putts of any length. If you struggle with speed on long putts, play from 20, 30 or 40 feet. Keep in mind that the longer the putt, the bigger the roll-out zone should be. For example, on a 30-footer, you've hit a good putt if it rolls as far as 18 inches past the mark. Don't forget to make a prediction while it's on its way!

## **GATE CRASHER**

This game will improve your accuracy. Find a dead-straight putt of eight to 10 feet. Place two ball markers about halfway between your ball and the hole. Set them just wide enough apart that a ball could roll between them.

Your goal for this game is simple: Hit putts that not only roll between the markers but also go in the hole. If you're playing against another player, give yourself a half point for getting a putt through the markers and a full point for sinking it. The player with the most points after hitting a predetermined number of putts is the winner.

I like to play this one at the start of my putting warm-up to dial in my accuracy before I go on the course. To be good at this game, you have to steady your body and make solid strokes. It's perfect pre-round practice.



# Good ONE's at the Farm

Congratulations to Marlin Pike  
for his hole in one on Island  
hole number 2 last month.  
Awesome shot Marlin!





# SCOTT'S CORNER

## A year in review!

Extreme cold and unusually dry conditions last January and February wreaked havoc (the hardest hit) on our tee surfaces. Meadows Farm was not the only course to experience this as reported thru our network at Virginia Extension Agents, Virginia Tech and the Virginia Turfgrass Council - *all reporting negative agronomic impacts statewide*. Not to mention the epic rains we experienced towards the latter half of the year washed away the applied pre-emergent to tee and greens areas allowing an undesirable breakthrough. I even saw weeds emerge in the fairways which usually never happens with this genome (Patriot of Bermuda, it is so aggressive that usually never happens. Yet we survived and please give a big THANKS to all your greens team for working so hard between rain drops and muddy conditions to keep Meadows Farm the best golf course in Central Virginia!

Please be patient as we gear up for what we are hoping to be a great growing season! Lots of projects are planned as the recovery process begins!

Lastly, please review changes the USGA has proposed beginning January 2019. One change is allowing the flagstick to remain in the cup while putting. Previously it was a two-stroke penalty that has now been eliminated. Removing the ball from the cup by using the flagstick **IS NOT ALLOWED!** The utmost care should be exercised regarding the cup edge and its surrounding. Using the flagstick to retrieve the ball almost always will result in a "raised cup" condition that renders putting impossible. Who knows, you may even make another loop for the "emergency nine" and will experience the negative effects of the raised cup syndrome. Respect the course and always leave the course better than you found it!

Five things to know for 2019 (copy and paste)

<https://golfweek.com/2018/12/27/new-rules-of-golf-5-things-every-golfer-must-know-before-playing-in-2019/>





*Virginia Golfer*



Official publication of the Virginia  
State Golf Association as a service  
to its more than 72,000 members.

NOVEMBER | DECEMBER 2018  
\$2.95 vsga.org

# Season of Survival

*Superintendents around Virginia detail  
how they navigated one of the toughest  
weather years on record*

Superintendent  
Brent Graham and  
his dog Duff survey  
the 16th green at Two  
Rivers Country Club  
in Williamsburg.

## *inside*

VSGA GOLFERS OF THE YEAR



NEW ADVENTURES FOR  
VSGA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
JAMIE CONKLING



LAST-MINUTE HOLIDAY GIFT IDEAS



**B**rent Graham, the course superintendent for the Two Rivers Country Club in Williamsburg, had a simple explanation for the seemingly countless weather-related travails he and many of his colleagues all around Virginia have faced in a memorable, and often miserable, 2018.

"It's been a year of extremes," Graham said. "Extreme heat, extreme cold. Extremely wet and extremely dry. Seems like we went right from winter into summer, and now, we've gone right from summer to winter. In my 13 years, it's been the most difficult time I've ever seen."

From south to north, east to west and all points in between, growing, mowing and maintaining grass for tees, greens, fairways and rough—whether Bermuda, Bent, Bluegrass, Zoysia or Fescue—has been a major challenge all around. In some places, those challenges were occasionally catastrophic, though not entirely insurmountable. Despite the year's weather extremes, superintendents around the Commonwealth found ways to keep their courses open and playable.

Consider Tuscarora Country Club in Danville, an 18-hole venue that opened in 1957.

After a colder-than-normal winter, a tornado hit the golf course in April, taking out 65 trees, many of them located in strategic spots that often came into play. Broken tree limbs and all manner of debris was scattered everywhere.

As if the summer hadn't been wet enough, in September, they were pounded by rain from the outer bands of hurricanes Michael and Florence. That caused significant flooding that washed all the sand out of their bunkers, wreaked havoc with saturated greens and destroyed a cart path. And because it was so wet, many areas could not be mowed, and rough almost became unplayable.

"We have Mini Verde Bermuda greens," said Steve Nixon, Tuscarora's general manager and head professional. "In January, we had a 20-day span where we had single digit, low teens temperatures every night. We lost 18 greens, 12 of them really badly. It was kind of wild. In April, the Bermuda was still dormant and we couldn't really tell until May how bad the winter kill was."

The bottom line: Tuscarora had to close down in June and July, re-opened in August and somehow survived the hurricane flooding. In mid-October, Nixon said, "We're almost back to 100 percent. Right now, our greens are probably in the best shape they've ever been since we put them in seven years ago. Our fairways general-



Brent Graham and his border collie Duff at Two Rivers Country Club.

ly did OK. If you played today and you had tried to play three months ago, you wouldn't even recognize the place."

Nixon said the greens came virtually all the way back during an intense 90-day period of constant care that included repeated aeration procedures, also known as sprigging, that involved taking plugs from out of the non-damaged portions of greens and placing them in the bad areas. They did that three different times starting at the end of May and continuing through the third week in July.

"It really worked just like we hoped it would," Nixon said, adding that there clearly were some lessons learned last year, particularly after that early winter freezing cold snap. "If it gets to be 20 degrees or below, we'll start putting pine straw over the top and cover it with tarps, which just adds another layer of insulation. We've also purchased some new gauges that will let us know how wet the soil is, and if it gets too dry, we will hand water them if we have to. We don't mind snow, but that cold spell really hurt us."

Further north, at The Gauntlet Golf Club in Fredericksburg, a public fee course designed by P.B. Dye, first-year course owner Mike Byrd faced another sort of obstacle in June caused by excessive moisture, heat and humidity. It was the dreaded Pythium blight on all his greens "and that stuff is like a shark, it can take out a green in 24 to 48 hours," Byrd said.

Pythium blight is also known as "grease spot" and "cottony blight" and can be a highly destructive turf disease, especially on bent grasses and rye grasses. Severe outbreaks can completely destroy the grass within a few days if weather conditions favor disease development.





Tireless work from Brent Graham and his staff paid off in September, when players at the Senior Open of Virginia raved about the terrific conditions at Two Rivers.

Unfortunately, Byrd learned that the hardest way possible. He was on a short vacation at the time the blight first appeared and his then (and no longer) superintendent was gone for several days at the same time because of a death in his family.

"By the time we both got back, it was too late," Byrd said. "We were cut out of a forest, so the air flow is not good in some places, and that was part of the problem. Experienced superintendents will pick it up quickly and deal with it. In our case it wasn't picked up because we weren't there."

Byrd said once the blight was eliminated, he re-seeded the greens with a harder variety of bent grass. Still, at one point over the summer, he was forced to close down his back nine. Growing the new greens was no easy task either, especially with such a wet summer.

"Every time we put new seed down, the rain washed it out, and all the fertilizer you put on the greens got flushed away," he said. "In 32 years in this business, I've learned a lot about agronomy, but for me, it was the worst summer I've ever had."

Byrd never did shut down the entire course, with players putting on temporary greens out on the fairways with larger than usual cups. Those zoysia grass fairways actually held up well and the greens have come back for the most part.

"But it killed our rounds," Byrd said. "Normally, we do 27,000, but when people call to make a tee time, you have to tell them they need to know that we have some rough conditions. This is my first year of ownership, and I don't even look at how many rounds we've lost. It's too depressing. Right now, I'm really the superintendent just trying to make the grass grow."

**“**  
*It's been a  
year of extremes...*

*In my 13 years,  
it's been the most  
difficult time I've  
ever seen.* **”**





Not far from The Gauntlet is Meadows Farms in Locust Grove, and that public venue was a bit more fortunate than its neighbor.

"We got this black mold early in the summer, but we saw it coming," said Josh Dotson, Meadows Farms general manager. "We were able to spray, and we kept spraying all summer. We never lost

a single green, but our maintenance budget is up over 40 percent. We've spent the money with the dream we'd have a great fall. Now, we're getting rain again. My superintendent (Scott Caskie) said the conditions this year were probably the worst they've been in 50 years."

A significant byproduct of so much rain were three words dreaded by anyone responsible for the bottom line of a public golf course—Cart Path Only (CPO). At Meadows Farms, Dotson estimated that 90 percent of the rounds from mid-March to October have been CPO, one reason the course is already 5,000 rounds below normal.

"We lean heavily on the senior demographic," he said. "When it's cart path only, they don't want to play."

Another byproduct of the rain can be seen in the rough at many courses. Rather than risk mowing equipment getting bogged down in the mud, many courses have simply let the grass grow, and let it grow some more.

"We had a lot of rain last year and our members thought the rough was bad," said Steve Nixon at Tuscarora. "This year was worse. Our members have been complaining because we usually cut it to 2 1/4 inches. Right now, it's probably six inches, and the rain keeps coming. They're not happy."

The same could not be said for the membership or anyone else playing at Two Rivers in Williamsburg. The Senior Open of Virginia was held there in early September, and competitors from around the state frequently came off the course raving about its remarkable condition.

Superintendent Brent Graham said there was one main reason.

"We have all the resources to do whatever we need to do," he said. "We're at a private club and if we need to do something, we can do it. If the weather isn't right, I can push up my aeration dates if I have to and no one complains about that. We have fans going on all the greens. We have the equipment to remove trees right away. A lot of courses don't have that luxury, and they do the best they can with what they've got."

"This hasn't been easy for any of us. We average about 40 inches of rain a year, and we hit that mark in September with three months left. This club dedicated itself to a great drainage program, and that really helped. I know this, as bad as it was, it could have been a whole lot worse." LG

*Leonard Shapiro covered golf for more than 20 years at The Washington Post and is a past president of the Golf Writers Association of America.*





# NOTE FROM JOSH

2018 was officially the worst year weather wise we will hopefully ever see. We started off 2018 with some extreme cold. There were 14 straight days in February where the high temperature for the day never broke 32 degrees. Once the ground thawed, it started to rain, and it rained, and it rained through the middle of May when we were blasted by a heat wave of 100 degree days. Then, it rained, and it hasn't stopped raining since then.

Our grounds crew has done an incredible job. I hope you took a second to read to the *Season of Survival* article in the VSGA magazine. We were the lucky course when so many others experienced total loss of their greens and went through hell trying to get them back in the middle of the season; some courses even had to close down.

Here are some figures for you from this year.

We are down over 5,000 rounds from last year's high of 35,000+ rounds

We had measurable rain of .1"+ at least 175 days this year

We were cart path only over 225 days this year that's over 60% of the year.

We have received over 70" of rain when our normal rainfall is below 40" for the entire year.

The positives, when the weather was nice, the golf course was the busiest it's ever been. We truly appreciate all of our customers that stood by our side in 2018, especially our full members that had faith in us.

We look forward to serving you in 2019.

Sincerely,

Josh Dotson



# JANUARY 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21 	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

# FEBRUARY 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14 	15	16
17	18 	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28		