

# September Forecast



## -----September-----

<b>Monday, 9-1</b>	<b>No events today, normal tee times.</b> <b>Have a great Labor Day!</b>
<b>Tuesday, 9-2</b>	Ladies Senior League; 9:00 a.m.
<b>Wednesday, 9-3</b>	Men's Senior League; 9:00 a.m.
<b>Wednesday, 9-3</b>	Fall League 1 <sup>st</sup> night; 5:15 p.m.
<b>Sunday, 9-7</b>	<b>ITCC Couples Tournament; 9:00 a.m.</b>
<b>Monday, 9-8</b>	<b>Course and Golf Shop Closed</b> <b>All day for course Aerification</b>
<b>Tuesday, 9-9</b>	Ladies Senior League; 9:00 a.m.
<b>Wednesday, 9-10</b>	Men's Senior League; 9:00 a.m.
<b>Wednesday, 9-10</b>	Fall League; 5:15 p.m.
<b>Saturday, 9-13</b>	<b>Franciscan Health Care golf outing; 10:00 a.m.</b>
<b>Tuesday, 9-16</b>	Ladies Senior League; 9:00 a.m.
<b>Wednesday, 9-17</b>	Men's Senior League; 9:00 a.m.
<b>Wednesday, 9-17</b>	Fall League; 5:15 p.m.

<b>Sunday, 9-21</b>	<b>Joe Lemm scholarship 4-person scramble; 11:00 a.m.</b>
<b>Tuesday, 9-23</b>	Ladies Senior League; 9:00 a.m.
<b>Wednesday, 9-24</b>	Men's Senior League; 9:00 a.m.
<b>Wednesday, 9-24</b>	Fall League; 5:15 p.m.
<b>Tuesday, 9-30</b>	Ladies Senior League; 9:00 a.m.

## **Why are you messing with the greens?!?!**



(from the "Golf Course Superintendents Association of America")

It's a perfect, sunny morning and you've just reached the first green in regulation. You feel great and you know you're within birdie range. Then, you see them, those little holes in the green. Arrggh!

Consider that aerification is merely a short-term disruption that has long-term benefits for golf courses. When you see them, remember that without those little holes, the greens would eventually die.

Preventative maintenance is an integral part of successful golf course management. Golfers view aerification as an inconvenience that takes the greens out of play for a day, pulling cores from the greens and leaving holes that can affect putting for many days before healing. To add insult to injury, aerification is done when most greens appear to be in prime condition.

But a golfer needs to understand how important aerification is to producing healthy turf.

Aerification (also known as aeration) achieves three important objectives. It relieves soil compaction, it provides a method to improve the soil mixture around the highest part of a green's roots and it reduces or prevents the accumulation of excess thatch.

Like so many things, the quality of a good putting green is more than skin deep. In fact, the condition of a green has a lot to do with what goes on below the surface. In order for grass to grow at 3/16-inch, it must have deep, healthy roots. Good roots demand oxygen. In good soil, they get the oxygen from tiny pockets of air trapped between soil and sand particles.

Over time, the traffic from golfers' feet (as well as mowing equipment) tends to compact the soil under the putting green - particularly when the soil contains a lot of clay. When soil becomes compacted, the air pockets on which the roots depend are crushed, and the roots are essentially left gasping for air. Without oxygen, the grass plants become weaker and will eventually wither and die.

Aerification is a mechanical process that creates more air space in the soil and promotes deeper rooting, thus helping the grass plants stay healthy. In most cases, it's done by removing half-inch cores (those plugs you sometimes see near a green or in fairways) from the compacted soil, allowing for an infusion of air and water that brings a resurgence of growth. The spaces are then filled with sand "topdressing" that helps the soil retain air space and makes it easier for roots to grow downward.

Older greens often are constructed of soils with significant amounts of silt, clay and fine organic particles that are prone to compaction. Filling aerification holes with sand improves drainage and resists compaction. The periodic introduction of sand to a green's top layer can, over time, avoid or postpone expensive rebuilding or renovation of greens.

Finally, growing of turf adds to a layer of organic matter on the surface. This layer, called thatch, is an accumulation of dead stems, leaves and roots. A little organic matter makes for a resilient green, but too much invites diseases and insects. Topdressing with sand can prevent thatch buildup, and aerification is one of the best ways to reduce an existing layer and prevent an excess of thatch from becoming established.

Before you curse the superintendent for ruining your day, just remember that a little preventative maintenance produces the best greens over the long haul.

# Pro Pointer: Fairway Woods



One of the most difficult shots for the average golfer to execute is the fairway wood off the ground. Part of the reason is the way the club is constructed. When you look down at an iron the loft is visible, but the larger head of a fairway wood takes your focus away from the loft, giving you the feeling it will be difficult to get the ball airborne.

The fairway wood swing is similar to that of a long iron with respect to ball position. The ball should be played in line with the left heel, with the feet shoulder-width apart. After making a full backswing, the emphasis should be to make a sweeping motion of the grass, which will allow the club to launch the ball into the air. Any conscious effort to help the ball up will result in a topped shot or a fatted shot. The angle of approach on the downswing should be a slightly steeper action, which can sometimes result in a small divot. The main thought should be to “brush” the grass under the ball.

Whereas the Driver swing is characterized by a “sweeping the tee” motion, the fairway wood swing is a slightly more downward motion into the ball. I recommend that players start out by using a 5 or 7-wood off the ground, then after seeing some success, move on to the 3-wood. As with any shot in golf, the fairway woods require some practice to develop a trust in. I’m sure if you spend just a little time on the practice tee, you will lose all fear of the fairway woods and add another weapon to your golfing arsenal!

# ITCC FALL LEAGUE



## SIGN-UP



Fall is upon us, and so is Fall League! The formats are fun and do not “require” you to participate every week (we hope you will want to be there each week, but we understand this is not always possible). You sign up for the season as a 2-person team. Each night will be a separate event with each team playing against the field. There will be payouts for each night.

**Men, Women or Mixed teams. All members are welcome to play!**

Fall League will be start at 5:15 p.m. each Wednesday night and will continue for 6 weeks; September 3<sup>rd</sup> through October 8<sup>th</sup>.

Wednesday, Sept. 3	Scramble
Wednesday, Sept. 10	Alternate shot
Wednesday, Sept. 17	Par 3 course
Wednesday, Sept. 24	Scramble – modified tees
Wednesday, Oct. 1	3-Club Scramble
Wednesday, Oct. 8	Alternate shot

***The sign-up deadline is September 1<sup>st</sup>***

Price to participate in the Fall League will be \$60 per 2-player team. All entry fee money will be paid back out!

# COUPLES TOURNAMENT



**SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup>**  
**9:00 AM SHOTGUN START**

Jack & Jill Format – both players hit drives, and then you'll hit each other's 2<sup>nd</sup> shots, then pick the best one and play alternate shot in.

\$150.00 per couple for Non members

\$75.00 per couple for Members

Includes golf, cart, prizes  
and a meal after play.

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Afternoon Sunday September 7<sup>th</sup> & all day Monday September 8<sup>th</sup>:

**The Golf Course and Golf Shop will all be closed for course Aerification.**



**\*We'll reopen Tuesday Morning.**