



The Donald Ross Journal

MILL CREEK GOLF COURSE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

January 2016
Volume 1

Golf Operation Season Review from the PGA Director of Golf

I would like to personally thank all of you for your support during the 2015 golf season, which was also my inaugural season here at Mill Creek. Your patronage does not go unnoticed and it's because of you that Mill Creek's a fun place to go to work and call home.

Something new for 2016 will be a quarterly newsletter. Enclosed in this first edition is a synopsis for 2016 as well as future projects, changes, etc. Our goal is to make the game of golf accessible to as many people and demographics. From hosting major regional and national events to "Get Golf Ready" golf programs and junior, high school, and adult programs we look to become the active leader in the local golf community. Maintaining a more efficient infrastructure, a better organized golf department, creating a more robust schedule of golfing activities will all enable us to create new opportunities that will be our new norm not only for 2016, but for the future.

Our golf course is what I consider to be "the product" and the most important component of the Mill Creek MetroParks golf operation. Maintaining the golf course properly is the number one priority. Our Head Superintendent Lance Bailey, Assistants Dave Donaldson Jr. and Eric Hansico, along with their staff have done an outstanding job of creating exceptional conditions this past year for both courses. This year's weather had a cornucopia of extreme elements for the staff to cope with all season. Heavy rains in June, drought like conditions during late summer, along with the massive leaf removal starting nearly two weeks later than normal, Lance and his staff did a wonderful job of making adjustments as needed. The new cutting and rolling schedule this season made for some quicker and healthier greens in 2015. Our maintenance staffs has gone above and beyond this season with their tireless hard work and dedication.

This past year we took a different approach in the way we operated our merchandising buying practices for the Golf Shop. We will continue to add some fresh new clothing vendors and update our golf accessories lines each year. The new Golf Shop upgrades include glass doors, merchandise display tables, sale racks, golf shop heating unit, painting, and décor which allowed us the ability to support annual sales for Black Friday and the Christmas Holiday. The major success of our Golf Shop has been largely due to the outstanding job Stacie Butler has done with the new displays and merchandising rotation. Her attention to the displays on a bi-weekly basis, hosting seasonal sales, and taking on the responsibility to presenting corporate logo opportunities has elevated our golf shop sales this year. We look to continue our annual demo days, club fittings, and golf ball fitting dates in 2016.

Looking ahead, one of our major goals next season is to continue to be more organized by elevating our customer service levels, all while sustaining a higher level of efficiency. In order to do so moving forward, the roles of our golf operation staff will be evolving. Both Stacie Butler and Andy Santor will be returning next year, but with different duties. Andy will take on the role of Head Golf Professional on the South Golf Course while Stacie will be the Head Golf Professional on the North Golf Course. Each will be responsible for their respective golf courses while splitting the responsibilities of; instructional programs, merchandising, Wick Recreation Area Par-3 Course, and golf operation staff management. Both will be responsible for the tournament operations on their respective courses and will share in the revamped golf instructional programs

we have planned for 2016. We plan to add a PGA Intern next season to take on some of the operational responsibilities at not only golf course, but also the Par-3. Additionally, we look to take advantage of the Par-3 Course by expanding our reach in bringing new players to the game of golf. Please feel free to congratulate both Andy and Stacie for their hard work and new responsibilities for the upcoming golf season. We're lucky to have them both as major contributors to the success of our golf operation.

In addition, we will be adding a Ladies Night Out event in the spring to showcase ladies clothing, shoes and select local vendors. The evening out will include pricing specials, discounts, raffles, and contests. Please be sure to check-out the new and improved Mill Creek Players Club Card specials we have planned for the upcoming season. The new rewards program will provide a more robust savings in the Golf Shop along with specialized pricing and monthly specials. Our long-term goal is to make the Mill Creek Golf Shop a one-stop-shop merchandising home to all our golfing customers.

The success of our PGA Junior League team has helped expand the growth of the game for several area juniors by allowing competition against area courses in a league format creating new friendships. The game of golf has always been about having fun, networking, and our PGA Junior League Golf Team at Mill Creek solidifies those core objectives of the PGA of America by making the game inclusionary to juniors of all abilities. Head Professional Andy Santor is our PGA Junior Leagues Golf Coach & NOPGA Delegate at Mill Creek. His involvement has helped our program to be very successful for its first season in the Mahoning Valley. If you have a junior interested in participating next season, please feel free to reach out to Andy at: andy@millcreekmetroparks.org. Further information can be found at: www.pgajuniorleague.com

In 2016, we look to build on the foundation of this past season by becoming heavily involved in the area school systems and YMCA's. We plan to have a full line-up of teaching programs in our local elementary and middle schools of four select school districts this February and March. Programs like these will allow us to extend our reach in growing the game of golf in the area while adding to the physical education classes during the offseason months. Popular programs like our Family Range Nights series will continue as well as our Mill Creek Junior Camp. Additionally, we will be adding a new high school specific program in 2016 as a college preparation series geared for those planning on participating in collegiate golf along with some fresh new "Get Golf Ready" programming.

The upcoming season will be filled with plenty of new events and tournament opportunities. We will be unveiling and launching our Donald Ross amateur tournament series and couples scotch events this spring. The Donald Ross tournament series will be a monthly tournament series with a variety of event formats that will be played in both men's and ladies scratch and handicap divisions. All the event prizes will be paid for with Golf Shop gift certificates as well as an event plaque honoring one of the past PGA Professionals at Mill Creek. It's our goal to promote our storied and iconic past at Mill Creek while offering new opportunities for amateur golfers. For the couples, we will be offering a tournament with zero stress and a night out. Couples scotch events will be conducted on Friday evenings throughout the year and will have food & beverages tied into the entry fees. Prizes will be awarded to the low scoring teams in the form of Golf Shop gift certificates. Event information and details will be available this spring.

With the efforts and success of our Family Range Nights at Mill Creek, I have been asked to sit on a National Panel for Youth & Family Development programming for the PGA of America. I will join The National Secretary of the PGA of America Suzy Whaley, National Player Development Director of the PGA Bob Baldassari and two fellow PGA Professionals from California on this panel. Their goal is to create future "Get Golf Ready" national events geared specifically for junior golfers and families. I look forward to participating on this national panel in the hopes to bring some events and/or pilot programs back home to the Mahoning Valley. It's because of you that

we've been very successful with programs like the Family Range Nights and we thank you for your participation.

Please remember to keep Mill Creek in mind for all of your golf outing and merchandise needs in 2016. We hope you enjoyed the great weather and enjoyed the extended golf season with play in November and December with the extended golf season. Have a safe and happy off-season and we look forward to a quick winter with plenty of great golf coming this spring. Thanks for making my first year at Mill Creek Golf Course a memorable one.

*Brian Tolnar, PGA
Director of Golf*

Limited Edition Ultimate Players Card Promotion

Now for sale is a limited edition Ultimate Player Card and is only available for Mill Creek Players Club Card members. The card contains: (2) eighteen hole rounds of golf on the North Course, (2) eighteen hole rounds of golf on the South Course, (1) nine hole round on the North Course, (1) nine hole round on the South Course, (2) large buckets of range balls, (2) small buckets of range balls, (2) eighteen hole rounds on the Wick Recreation Area Par-3 Course, (2) nine hole rounds on the Wick Recreation Area Par-3 Course, (1) \$10.00 off coupon for a golf lesson and (1) 20% off coupon for an in-stock merchandise purchase. The cards are limited to the first 150 customers at the rate of \$149.00/card (limit: 2 per customer) during January and February and will expire on November 15. Purchasers are subject to adhere to all facility rules and card regulations.

2016 Collegiate Card Program

New for the 2016 golf season will be a Mill Creek Collegiate Club Card. The Collegiate Card will be available for \$19.99 for active college students 23 and under at Gateway Community College, University of Mount Union, University of Akron, Kent State University, and Youngstown State University. The Collegiate Card offers discounts on greens fees for 18-hole play, Buy 1 Get 1 Free Practice Range Specials, Wick Recreation Area Par-3 course discounts, \$5.00 off all golf lesson purchases, and 10% off all in-stock merchandise purchases. The Collegiate Card is our way to help support the "Get Ready Golf" initiative as well as to help grow the game of golf at the collegiate level. All students must present an active student ID when purchasing the card. Collegiate Card holders subject to adhere to all facility rules and card regulations. Collegiate Cards can be purchased until May of 2016 at the Golf Shop.

2015 Overview

- New golf course ratings for ladies and men's tee markers on the North and South Courses
 - o *Three sets of tees are now rated for ladies (lime, dark green and white)*
 - o *Three set of tees are now rated for the men (dark green, white, and black)*
 - o *The course was last rated and updated in 1999*
- New Golf Shop doors and upgraded merchandise area
- Painted and updated signage in the Golf Shop
- New Golf Shop tables, mannequins, and display pieces
- Golf cart all-weather covers
- New high school golf team and college golf team signage added to the Fieldhouse
 - o *Boardman, Canfield, Cardinal Mooney, South Range, and Poland High Schools*
 - o *Youngstown State University Ladies & Men's Teams*
- Food Menu signage on the North and South courses
 - o *Located on Hole #8 on all four nine hole courses as well as on all golf cart message holders*
- New upcoming events, cart rules, and course rules signage for the starter areas
- New yardage and teaching program signage for the Practice Range

- Added golf club washers to the Driving Range and Practice Facility
- Donor Wall project for the Driving Range and Practice Facility completed June
- New Golf Course signage for the Fieldhouse
- Established a more aggressive mowing and rolling schedule to produce faster green speeds
- Removal of 88+ tree stumps on the North and South Courses
- Bunker restoration of six sand bunkers
- Added new brick steps on Hole #11 of the North Course
- Added new golf course drainage on 8 areas of the North and South Courses
- Free family range night program
 - o *Free lessons from Brian Tolnar, Stacie Butler, and Andy Santor*
 - o *Event featured in PGA Magazine, National Range Magazine, and Golf Digest*
 - o *Held May through September*
- New 5-week Summer Junior Golf Program
- Corporate logo merchandise and golf ball program
- Mystery logo spotter program
- Hole #55 Valley Grille Catering food vendor and liquor license
- Marketing created a Golf course specific Facebook Page
- Expanded advertising programs and golf specials in 2015
 - o *My Valley Deals, Town Shopper, Cumulus Golf Card, Warren Tribune, Tee Time Pass Book, Business Journal*
- Radio advertising program and monthly live radio remotes
 - o *1240 AM, 570 WKBN, K105, WKST 1200*
- New pressure washer to upgrade the cleanliness of our golf carts
- More active cart signage for programming (upcoming events, cart rules, and menus)
- Monthly Wick Recreation Par-3 Course Clinics (adult, junior, senior)
- New Par-3 Recreation Area Course Event Series
- Monthly "Beat the Pro's" events at the Wick Recreation Area Par-3 Course
- Golf Shop merchandising sales, programs, and contests
 - o *Masters Sale, Christmas in July, Halloween Sale, Buy 1 Get 1 Shirt Sale, Black Friday Sale, 12 Days of Christmas Sale*
- New Demo Days, Ball Fitting Days, and lesson packages
 - o *Titleist, Ping, Cobra, Mizuno, Bridgestone, Tour Edge, Cleveland, Srixon*
- August play with your Pro's Month
 - o *Participants: Stacie Butler, Andy Santor, and Brian Tolnar*
- Ladies Golf League complimentary clinic series
- Hosted Vindy's Greatest Junior Golfer
- Big Break Wall and Cornhole Games for fun times after your round
- Expanded brands and selections of merchandise in the Golf Shop
- PGA Junior Golf League Team host site
- Attended Fellows Riverside Gardens Ladies Night Out
- Received quotes for an on-course weather and siren system for the 2016 season
- Hired a new Assistant Greens Superintendent (Eric Hanisco)
- Added new sale banner flags for 224, Shields Road and West Golf Drive
- Hole #55 and Fieldhouse: hot water tank, electric heating unit, and kitchen prep sooler
- New Quarterly Golf Specific Newsletter (January of 2016)
- Buy 1 Get 1 Range Ball promotional specials

Donald Ross Amateur Series

Beginning this year, there will be a season long amateur golf series available to all who play at Mill Creek and in the Mahoning Valley. The series will include monthly tournaments with different formats geared toward the amateur golfer. The formats will include a 2-Person Best Ball, Individual Stroke Play, Individual Match Play, Team Match Play, 2-Person Scramble, 2-Person Alternate Shot, and a 2-Person Fall 6-6-6 Event. This amateur golf series will have an open

division and handicap division for men and women. A valid USGA GHIN Handicap will be required for all players participating in the tournament series. Winners of each event will receive Golf Shop gift certificates and a named plaque honoring one of Mill Creek’s PGA Professionals through the years. At the end of year, we will award a season long Most Valuable Player who has accumulated the most points throughout the season (man and woman). Both MVP Winners will receive the Donald Ross Trophy at the season ending Fall 2-Person 6-6-6 Tournament.

2016 Donald Ross Amateur Series Schedule:

FORMAT	DATE	HONOREE
2-Person Scramble	Saturday, April 23, 2016	Joe Coughlin
2-Person Best Ball	Saturday, May 21, 2016	Billy Alcroft
Individual Stroke Play	Saturday, June 18, 2016	Neil Crose
Season Long Individual Match Play	1 st Round – May 23, 2016	Billy Carroll
Season Long 2-Person Match Play	1 st Round – May 23, 2016	Conrad Kovach
2-Person Alternate Shot	Saturday, July 16, 2016	Dennis Miller
2-Person 6-6-6 Tournament	Saturday, August 27, 2016	Andy Santor

Further details will follow in the spring for 2016.

Golf Instruction with Andy Santor, PGA

“The Importance of Winter Fitness”

As the golf season begins to wind down, it is easy for us to develop a more sedentary lifestyle than we do in-season. As motivation for the coming winter months and next golf season, start an exercise program for two critical areas in the golf swing - the pelvis and thoracic spine. Not only are pelvic and t-spine mobility critical for an efficient golf swing they are excellent cures for lower back pain. Although not a doctor, many golfers tend to develop stiffness and pain in their lower back and in many cases lower back pain is caused by poor pelvic and t-spine mobility. As a general rule, our bodies tend to do what is easy and not what is best. As these areas stiffen, we tend to get rotation in our golf swing from our lumbar spine area or lower back which do two things, cause golf swing deficiencies and pain. By developing sufficient mobility in the pelvic and t-spine areas our bodies will use the muscles it is supposed to use. To put it simply when our bodies try to do simple motions like reaching for an object or bending over to pick something up if we do not use the muscles we are supposed to use we will recruit other muscles to perform the motion. That is why a tour player makes it look effortless to do something like swinging a golf club 125 miles per hour. Their bodies are functioning properly to perform the motion they are trying to perform. So, as the golf season winds down try to improve your pelvic and t-spine mobility. You can find a multitude of exercises on websites such as mytpi.com or if you want to get more serious with this we have a few TPI certified trainers in our area. They can be easily found on mytpi.com in the “Find an Expert” section. Happy off-season training!

*Andy Santor, PGA Professional
TPI CFGP I & II, and Junior Golf II*

Merchandising 101 with Stacie Butler

During the past season, we have made several big changes to the Golf Shop with the addition of the new doors, tables, and display pieces. We also added Bridgestone, Monterey Club, and some new clothing lines to give our customers an expanded variety in the shop. We have held numerous sales including Valentine’s, Masters, Christmas in July, Mother’s Day, Father’s Day, Halloween, Black Friday, 12 Days of Christmas, Big Christmas Party, and our Mystery Spotter program. We also offered an expanded corporate logo merchandise program and golf ball program this summer. We would like to thank you for your patronage during the 2015 season. If

for some reason we don't have what you are looking for please let us know as we can try to special order that particular item for you. Our staff will be attending the PGA Merchandise Show in Orlando, FL, this year, to help enhance our ability to provide the most up-to-date fashion trends and styles for 2016. As we look forward to the upcoming season, we will again fine tune our product selections to provide you with a wide variety of selections with very competitive pricing. Thank you for shopping with us at the Mill Creek Golf Shop!

Stacie Butler
Assistant Director of Golf

Turf Notes: Synopsis of Projects

- The extreme cold temperatures caused winterkill damage on 18 north green. The areas were widespread and required over 150 hexagon plugs. We also sodded a few areas on this green that were dead. Winterkill was also observed on 11 south green and 8 south green. After the installation of plugs and sod, no additional damage was recorded and the greens remained healthy.
- The month of June was extremely wet and it was very difficult to accomplish tasks. The monthly rainfall total for June was 9.275 inches. We allocated plenty of time pumping out bunkers and other rain related activities such as squeegeeing greens and wet areas.
- Removal of 80+ tree stumps with the areas cleaned up, filled in with topsoil, and seeded with 4 way ryegrass seed.
- A fairway bunker on 2 North was filled in with topsoil and the area was seeded.
- A few tree were removed that had fallen or were considered safety hazards during the season.
- 140 feet of 4 inch drainage tile was installed on the right side of 16 fairway on the South Course. The area had water laying in it most of the year because the old drain had failed. A new drain with 5 catch basins was installed with an outlet running into a nearby ditch.
- The HOC on the greens was lowered to 0.125. The greens were previously at 0.130. The reason for lowering the HOC was green speed. We were able to get much better ball roll with the lower HOC. The greens were also periodically double cut, rolled more often (2 to 3 times/week) and verticut more frequently.
- The PGR rate applied to the greens was changed from Primo to Legacy. The greens were sprayed biweekly instead of weekly in an effort to save money. Primo will not regulate turf for two weeks it starts to wear off after 7 days. Legacy is a combination product that contains Primo and Cutlass. The addition of Cutlass enables the product to last longer.
- Bunker maintenance was greatly improved. The bunkers were raked more frequently and were much more playable. The weeds in the bunkers were also greatly reduced by raking more frequently.
- We rebuilt 4 greenside bunkers on both the North and South Courses. The majority of the bunkers at Mill Creek hold water due to lack of drainage or a drain line that has failed. The bunker renovation consist(s) of removing all of the old bunker sand and digging out the bunker and shaping as needed. Locating the old drain line and determining if it was functional. Locating the drain outlet and flushing it out with the irrigation water. Installing a new 4 inch drain line with laterals as needed. The drain was installed on 2 inches of washed pea gravel and covered completely to the surface with pea gravel. A liner from sandtrapper was used to cover the trench and secured with staples and liquid nails. Signature trap sand was placed in the bunker to a depth of 4 to 6 inches. The bunkers were then water free after rainfall and ready for play. The following bunkers were rebuilt in this order: 1 south greenside right, 11 south greenside right, 2 north greenside, and 18 south greenside left.
- The greens, tees, fairways, and practice facility were aerified in September and October. The greens were topdressed with 20-80 sand after aerifying.

- Starting in October, leaves were removed off the golf courses. The leaves were piled up with a tractor blower, picked up with a truck vac, or mulched up with rough mowers.

*Lance Bailey, GCSAA
Golf Course Superintendent*

Mill Creek Players Club Card Makeover and Upgrades

The new 2016 rewards program will provide a more robust savings in the Golf Shop along with specialized pricing and monthly specials. Our long-term goal is to make the Mill Creek Golf Shop a one-stop-shop merchandising home for all our golfing customers. Adjustments to the program as well as the additional rewards, opportunities, and incentives include:

- ✓ **5%** back on all purchases - merchandise, green fees, cart fees and range usage
- ✓ Redeemable for greens fees and range fees only
- ✓ Players Club Rewards special merchandise pricing in the Golf Shop all season long (10% off)
- ✓ Monthly specials with email blast to rewards members only
 - January – Free golf ball personalization specials with Bridgestone and Titleist
 - February – Valentine’s Day Sale - take an additional 10% off and Pre-Season Gift Card Promo
 - March - \$5.00 off all pre-paid Golf Lesson packages & Hole-in-One Contest
 - April - 20% off all in-stock Foot-Joy Shoes and Hole-in-One Contest
 - May - \$3.00 off all in-stock Titleist Golf Balls Month
 - June - \$3.00 off all in-stock Bridgestone Golf Balls Month
 - July – Additional 20% off all in-stock clothing
 - August – Buy 1 In-stock glove and get the 2nd for \$5.00 (In-stock gloves only)
 - September – Additional 20% Off all in-stock Outerwear
 - October – Weekend Buy 1 Get 1 Free range balls and \$2.00 off all Wick Recreation Area Par-3 Course greens fees
 - November – Ultimate gift card promotion and golf ball sale
 - December – Golf cart raffle, lesson package specials, and 12 Days of Christmas Sale
- ✓ FREE 9-hole round of golf on your birthday
- ✓ Limited Edition Ultimate Golf Card - exclusive to Players Club Members only
- ✓ Surprise email give-a-ways
- ✓ Christmas golf cart for a year raffle with each merchandise purchase in December
- ✓ Rewards Card may not be used for corporate logo, sale items, or marked down specials

2016 Tentative Improvements

- Golf course Weather Safety Siren System
- Hole #55 & Fieldhouse - painting, décor, and ice machine
- New checkered style flags for better visibility on the golf course
- New tee markers for the North and South Courses
- Bunker restoration continued
- New tree plantings on the North and South Courses
- Landscaping around the Fieldhouse and entrance ways
- Additional new pull carts added to our current fleet
- Driving range yardage signage on the hitting tee
- Restoring the practice area bunker
- Drainage on the South Golf Course
- Adding a food and beverage operation at the Wick Recreation Par-3 Course
- North and South Course directional signage
- Cart path yardage marking
- Online Tee Time program
- Golf course Twitter account

- Golf course phone app
- Website online gift card purchasing center
- Redesigned and upgraded "Get Ready Golf" programming
- In-house golf league
- Par-3 night time golf league
- Adding a PGA Intern Golf Professional
- Live entertainment on the Patio at Hole #55
- Ladies golf, Sip & Paint Parties at Hole #55
- Ladies Night Out Spring Event
- Donald Ross Amateur Series
- AJGA National Tournament (June of 2016)

Book your next Golf Outing at Mill Creek

We cordially invite you to host your next golf outing at Mill Creek Golf Course - one the most historic golf courses in the Mahoning Valley. Recognized by Golf Week Magazine as one of the "Best Courses" you can play for a public facility, our golf operation encompasses two championship Donald Ross designed courses, practice range, lighted Par-3 course, golf outing tent, bar and grille as well as a fully stocked Golf Shop for your prize needs. The course layouts at Mill Creek are challenging but fun and our location off of State Route 224 makes traveling to Mill Creek the ideal destination. Our PGA professional staff at Mill Creek has a combined 75 years of experience in operating golf outings and special events and will provide your customers and guests with a first class golfing experience. Mill Creek has the ability to handle golf outings from 30 players to upwards of 288 players between both the North and South Courses. Our food staff at Hole #55 (Valley Grille Catering) come with 20+ years of catering experience and offer a wide variety of food and drink offerings. If you or anyone you know is looking to host a golf event in 2016, please feel free to contact us at the Mill Creek Golf Shop (330) 740-7112.

2nd Annual Mill Creek Junior Program - Junior Camp

Mill Creek MetroParks will be hosting our 2nd Annual Junior Golf Program at the Mill Creek Park Golf Course. This year's program will take place during the month of July for kids between the ages of 7 and 15. Participants will have the opportunity to learn the game of golf, its values, life skills, and proper etiquette in the month long instructional series. The program will allow us at Mill Creek Park the chance to host a roster of great activities by some of the area's top PGA Golf Professionals.

Our mission will be to give junior golfers from the local community the opportunity to develop their golf skills in a safe, fun, and educational environment. The program will feature five hours of professional instruction with local certified PGA Professionals. The instruction will be highlighted by some of the area's top golf industry affiliates and golf representatives (e. Certified Rules Officials, Golf Course Superintendent's, and Golf Business Associates).

The 2016 Junior Golf Camp will take place over the months of June and July.

Thursdays, June 30 and July 7, 14, 21, 28

Ages: 7-9 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

Ages: 10-12 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Ages: 13-15 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

The cost of the program will remain the same as last season (\$99.99/junior) and includes – five days of PGA golf instruction, range balls, program t-shirt, Mill Creek bag tag, golf coupons, 10-pack range card, guest speaker Q & A, prizes, rules overview, fitness exercises, drills, etiquette, and games. Sign-ups will begin in May.

High School Golf School

Hosting successful high school golf programs with seven area school districts has allowed us at Mill Creek the opportunity to build and develop junior golfers at a more rapid pace than many of the other area golf facilities. It's a compliment to our golf courses' accessibility and the major role we share with the local community and the game of golf. Coming this golf season will be a High School Golf School summer golf program geared to high school juniors and seniors who are looking to take their games to the next step and look to play at the collegiate level.

Here is a tentative program overview:

Open to all current high school juniors and seniors (boys and girls sessions)

Cost \$399.00/student which includes a pair of Foot Joy Hyper Flex Golf Shoes (\$175.00 value)

This nine week session will meet once per week and will include both golf instructions from our PGA Professional staff and a comprehensive physical evaluation by a TPI certified fitness trainer. In each session, students will have their swings analyzed by V1 golf computer software, which will be accompanied by a 3-5 minute internet wrap up. They will also be given a complete physical evaluation and learn why they swing a golf club the way they do. In each session thereafter they will receive fitness training to make any necessary physical corrections.

Week One Overview – Tuesday, April 19

Physical evaluation and full swing video session.

Week Two Overview – Tuesday, April 26

Fitness plan and full swing corrections.

Week Three Overview – Tuesday, May 3

Short game and fitness training.

Week Four Overview – Tuesday, May 10

Full swing, reading greens, and fitness training.

Week Five Overview – Tuesday, May 17

Physical reassessment and course management.

Week Six Overview – Tuesday, May 24

Full swing reassessment and fitness training.

Week Seven Overview – Tuesday, June 7

Short game various shots utilizing different clubs including bunker play.

Week Eight Overview – Tuesday, June 14

Physical reassessment and on-course play.

Week Nine Overview – Tuesday, June 28

Play 18 holes with PGA Professional on-course instruction.

Ladies Golf Schools

The Ladies Golf School I will consist of four days of instruction over the course of a month that will outline the following - putting, chipping, Iron Play & Wood Play. In addition to the golf swing technique, the program will overview some common etiquette and rules of the game. The school is open to beginners, intermediate, and established players. There will be a Ladies Golf School II available for those who would like to graduate on to trouble shots, bunker play, and on the course play. This is a great way to knock off some rust and get your game in shape for the upcoming golf season. The Golf School is limited to the first **10** ladies.

May Ladies Golf School I dates: May 5, 12, 19, 26 - 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

June Ladies Golf School I dates: June 2, 9, 16, 30 - 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

July Ladies Golf School II dates: July 7, 14, 21, 28 - 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

August Ladies Golf School II dates: August 4, 11, 18, 25 - 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Both Ladies Golf Schools will be instructed by Brian Tolnar and Stacie Butler. Sign-ups will begin for all four Ladies Golf Schools on April, 1.

“Get Ready Golf” Adult Clinics

An adult program designed to teach everything you need to know to play golf. Each session will focus on the various golf skills necessary while playing. You will be taught the different movement patterns associated with the full swing and the short game as well as the difference between hitting a golf ball off a tee as opposed to the ground. You will take these skills to the course and learn things like where to drive and park a golf cart, how to play within a designated time frame, and above all get more comfortable playing golf. We will be offering a more limited schedule with a more robust teaching staff and curriculum.

April 27 - 6 to 7:30 p.m.

May 11 and 28 – 6 to 7:30 p.m.

June 8 and 22 – 6 to 7:30 p.m.

July 6 and 20 – 6 to 7:30 p.m.

August 3 and 17 – 6 to 7:30 p.m.

“Get Ready Golf” Junior Clinics

Our junior golf clinics will have your junior learning to develop the necessary fundamental movement skills to play the game of golf. They will learn to develop both speed and skill and how to correlate them with various shots. They will learn to develop the necessary skills, both social and athletic, and how to take them to the golf course. As children develop they will go through various windows of training, such as speed, strength and stamina, which will allow your children to apply the various skills necessary for the appropriate window.

May 22 and 29 – 10 to 11:30 a.m.

June 7, 14, and 28 – 10 to 11:30 a.m.

July 5, 12, 19, and 26 – 10 to 11:30 a.m.

August 2 and 9 – 10 to 11:30 a.m.

Family Range Nights

Back by popular demand, our monthly golf instruction Family Range Night series is geared toward the family. The program is conducted each month (May through August) all season long and will showcase FREE PGA golf instruction, music, games, prizes, and a complimentary cook-out on the practice facility. The typical program length runs approximately 60 to 90 minutes. All family members, neighbors, and friends are welcome to attend as the program is open to players of all abilities. Beginners and non-golfers welcome.

Saturday, May 21 – 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, June 11 – 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, July 23 - 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, August 13 - 6 to 7:30 p.m.

This year's pilot Family Range Night program was featured in PGA Magazine, Golf Digest, and National Driving Range Magazine. The event was hugely popular and was a great avenue for us to help grow the game of golf at Mill Creek with a relaxed atmosphere.

Par-3 Course

Thank you for all of your support at the Wick Recreation Area Par-3 Golf Course. We have expanded our reach by adding many instructional events, golf specials, and event programming this past year. As we move forward, we look to expand on the foundation we built on in 2015. Our Saturday morning boys and girls junior golf leagues have played a major role in helping us grow the game of golf at a younger age. The addition of the complimentary junior, senior, and adult clinics have assisted in showcasing the game to new demographics and beginners. The short course is an important part in helping us expand our reach in the golf department. We're very lucky to have this type of facility at our disposal and look to expand and build our golfer database with continued programs like "Beat the Pro's," couples and college events and leagues. Our goal is to make the Wick Recreation Area a destination place for the entire family and golfers alike. We're currently researching the ability to add a modest food and beverage operation to enhance your golfing experience. Details of exploration will be completed over the winter months with the possibility of starting up the operation in late May or early June. We would like to thank Tommy Ross and Rich Cerimele for their hard work and their countless hours in keeping the Par-3 golf course in phenomenal shape. They truly take pride in what they do and the Par-3 grounds have never looked better.

Ladies Night Out at the Golf Course

A night out for the ladies of Mill Creek featuring a golf clothing trunk show, give-a-ways, contests, and prizes. Area vendors and sales representatives will be on hand to give a preview of the 2016 ladies clothing, shoes, purses and accessory lines. Drink specials, popcorn, and appetizers will be on hand as well. All ladies golf league members are welcome to attend as well as any friends you may have interest in participating and or joining any of the ladies golf leagues. It's designed to be a nice night out prior to the start of the 2016 golf season at Mill Creek. Tentative vendors for the event include Bridgestone, Foot-Joy, Titleist, Antigua, Sun Mountain, Ecco, Straight Down, Jofit, Navaika, purse vendor, Avon, and Pampered Chef. There will be special savings on pre-orders that evening as well as a putting contest with some great prizes. Details will be available in the spring.

College Golf Recruiting Letters and Endorsements

Our PGA Professional staff at Mill Creek would like to help assist all aspiring high school junior and senior golfers who would like to play golf collegiately. Mill Golf Course is always been a hotbed for great high school players and our staff at Mill Creek would love to help your son or daughter take it to the next level. The PGA Staff at Mill Creek will be helping out the local community by endorsing your golfer with a few formal letters to college coaches on his/her behalf. All we ask is for a list of schools with names and contact information along with a one page player biography of his/her accomplishments. Please feel free to reach out to us if you're interested in this free service from our staff and we would be happy to assist. Just another complementary service we look to add in 2016 to help showcase our junior and high school golfers that play at Mill Creek.

Long-Term and Future Projects and Capital Improvement Wish List

- Winter indoor teaching and practice center upstairs in the Fieldhouse
 - *Indoor putting & chipping areas*
 - *Hitting bays*
 - *Golf simulator unit*
 - *Upgraded upstairs restroom facility*
 - *Player development golf swing analysis meeting room*
 - *Flight-Scope indoor golf swing tracker and lesson cameras*
 - *Small bunker practice area*

- *Host site for winter junior high school camps, YSU Ladies & Men's Program offseason usage, club fitting capabilities, winter golf leagues, and off-season PGA Professional golf instruction and practice*
- New irrigation pump house
- Cart path completion on the South Golf Course
- Upgraded storm shelter houses on both golf courses
- Upgraded restroom facilities on the golf course
- Flowerbed and planting enhancements to the facility and golf course
- Spraying unit for the course maintenance department
- New starter houses for the North and South Courses
- Return of the Youngstown Open (late summer of 2017)

Congratulations to our Local Golf Teams who had outstanding seasons in 2015

Mill Creek Golf Course is the host to seven area boys and girls high school golf teams - Boardman Boys and Girls, Cardinal Mooney Boys and Girls, South Range Boys and Girls, Canfield Boys and Poland Girls. The staff at Mill Creek would like to congratulate the teams who qualified for this season sectionals, districts, and the state tournament in their victorious seasons.

- Boardman Boys – District Qualifiers advancing to the State Tournament finishing in 7th place
- Boardman Girls – District Qualifiers with Jacinta Pikunas and Jenna Vivo qualifying as individuals for the State Tournament. Jacinta was the Division I Individual Runner-Up
- Cardinal Mooney Boys – Sectional Champions and District Qualifiers
- Cardinal Mooney Girls – District Qualifier Hadley Spievogel
- Poland Girls – District Qualifiers
- South Range Girls – Taylor Ross

Congratulations to the Youngstown State University Ladies Golf Team who qualified for the NCAA National Championship tournament for the first time in program history.

Mill Creek Golf Course is a proud supporter of high school & collegiate golf in the Mahoning Valley.