



THE DUCK CALL

JANUARY 2024



The Newsletter for the membership of Drake Creek Golf Club

Annual Year End Review and New Year Expectations

In 2023, I started my 19th year at Drake Creek. Hard to believe I've been here that long but as the old saying goes, time flies.

There are three things that stand out to me about 2023. First, is the fact finally exceeding some long-term revenue goals was immediately offset by inflation and increased expenses. But we planned well, and the year was financially solid, nonetheless. Second, we experienced an unusual series of unexpected issues on the golf course (winter kill in 2 fairways, an irrigation main breakdown, and a fairway mower that took nearly 3 months to repair). The issues have all be rectified but what I remember most is the resolve and tireless dedication of Josh Noles and the maintenance crew to press on. And finally, how could anyone not recognize our greens? In my 19 years, they've never been better.

As every New Year begins, I ask what are we going to do to make this year better or at least ensure things don't get worse? It seems our two biggest problems, rising inflation and a shrinking labor force, are problems we cannot control. But the good news is our facility is in good order, and we've already laid the groundwork for a productive 2024.

Golf Course. Josh Noles is developing into one of the area's best superintendents. And his commitment to Drake Creek is extraordinary. We will maintain the course budget that was increased in 2023. I'd be happy for Josh to just give us the course we had in 2023. But we all know Josh can't stop making improvements.

Staffing. Even though we will miss Robbie Parsons who left on the best of terms, our 2024 staff is already set. Dawn Butler will move into a Chief Operations role and will help direct all front of the house staff. Thad Buchanon will manage day-to-day operations and Andrew Bell will fill the role of Assistant Golf Professional. Carla Belt is our Swiss army knife. She can and will do about everything. Alex Parks will help us in the golf shop this summer and we'll hire more part-time staff in the busier season.

Membership. It seems golfers are realizing the value of a Drake Creek membership. Thanks to all of you, our membership number is strong. While we are not looking to cap our membership, we'll only be looking to maintain our current position. I feel it should viable to maintain our membership numbers based on our pricing and course conditions.

As a Drake Creek member you still have 7 other FREE golf memberships. You have playing privileges at Fulton Country Club in Fulton, KY, Kokopelli Golf Course in Marion, IL, Union County CC in Anna, IL, Red Hawk Golf Club in Tamaroa, IL, Governor's Run in Carlyle, IL and Bent Creek GC in Benton, IL.

There's a lot to offer at Drake Creek and that's the way I want it. My hope for each of you is that you ENJOY Drake Creek. Thank you so much for your continued support. I wish you each a happy and blessed 2024. - M. Todd Butts, PGA Director of Golf and Club Operations.

COLD GOLF WARM HEARTS Valentines Couples



Tourney

Saturday, February 10, 2024

Shotgun start @ 12:00pm

Lunch at 11am

9-Hole Couples Scramble

Limited to first 27 Paid Teams

Entry Fee is \$70 per team and includes
cart, lunch, and prizes.

Tournament will be flighted after *play*.

MEMBER COUPON

\$10.00 OFF PER

MEMBER

**COLD GOLF WARM HEARTS
ENTRY FEE**

This coupon is valid for current Drake Creek Members who participate in the Cold Golf Warm Hearts Tournament on February 10.

At least 1 team member must be a Drake Creek member to utilize this coupon.

RANGE CONTRACTS

Range contracts are now available.

Pay an annual fee and you can hit unlimited range balls!! Only \$175 for single and \$225 for family.

January Golf Shop Hours & Advisory

Please be advised that our golf shop may close on days when the weather is bad. During bad weather days, please call before driving out to the course. 270-898-GOLF

January Golf Shop Hours

Tuesday – Friday
9-5

Saturday Sunday
9-5

Monday
(closed)
unless good weather

2024 Membership Promotion

Sign up a new member this month and get a \$50 credit toward your dues! You can earn a \$50 credit for every new member you sign up! Call 270-898-4653 for details!

Drake Creek Members Get 6 FREE Memberships in 2024



Thank you Drake Creek Members

172 of 180 of you participated in the voluntary employee holiday gratuity fund. Thanks to you our key employees were rewarded for a year of dedication and hard work.

Our Employees Appreciate Everyone Who Participated.

BREW CREW TIMES

Jan 6-7	11:00
Jan 13-14	11:00
Jan 20-21	11:00
Jan 27-28	11:00

As a Drake Creek member you have full membership privileges to Fulton Country Club in Fulton, KY, Bent Creek in Jackson, MO, Red Hawk GC in Tamaroa, IL, Kokopelli GC in Marion, IL, Benton Country Club in Benton, IL, Governor's Run in Carlyle, IL, and Union County CC in Anna, IL. Just call for a tee time and identify yourself as a Drake Creek member. ENJOY!

Private Alcohol Crackdown

It's a state law folks. It is illegal to bring your private alcohol onto a licensed premises. Unfortunately, this law is being broken and abused by too many members even though we have polite employees and signage everywhere. Once again, our license is in jeopardy.

On behalf of the Kentucky Alcohol and Beverage Control (ABC), we are implementing a simple plan that seems more than fair.

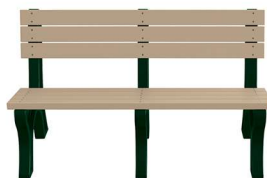
Violators will receive a polite but stern written warning. A second violation will result in a \$100+ fine. And a third violation will result in membership suspension or termination.

A sterner policy is in effect for non-members.

Paxton Park, Ky Dam, Rolling Hills, CC of Paducah and every course in Kentucky with an alcohol license is under the same jurisdiction.

Please help us do better.

Would you like to recognize a loved one, your business, or your family with a permanent bench at Drake Creek?



We are seeking sponsors for a few permanent benches on the Drake Creek property. The benches can be customized with names, etc. We think this would be a unique way to both enhance our facility and recognize some of our best patrons. Please call the golf shop if you're interested.

DEMO Equipment to arrive at Drake Creek by February 15th

Looking to test out some new golf clubs?

TaylorMade and PING are set to release some new products in 2024.

We will have NEW golf club fitting equipment that will be available for members & customers to demo.

Come by the golf shop and ask about these new products or simply give us a call.

2024 Drake Creek Valentines Couples Tournament



Cold Golf Warm Hearts

Saturday, February 10th

Shotgun Start at 12:00PM

Lunch at 11am

2 Perosn 9 hole Scramble

\$70 Per Team +tax

**includes Cart, Green Fee,
Lunch, and Prize Pool**

- Get the couples golf season kicked off
- early this year with a great warm up
- tournament at Drake Creek! Our 17th
- annual Cold Golf Warm Hearts tourney
- includes 9-holes of golf, cart, and lunch.
- The tournament will be flighted and the
- field will be limited to the first 27 paid
- teams. Call 898-GOLF today to reserve
- your place in the field.

Print this form and send your payment to: Drake Creek Golf Club
Attn Cold Golf Warm Hearts, PO Box 306, Ledbetter, KY 42058

1

Name _____ Mailing Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Cell Phone _____ Email _____

2

Name _____ Mailing Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Cell Phone _____ Email _____