



## NEWSLETTER (May 2009)

### From the PRESIDENT

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It is another great year to be at Mystery Valley, and a member of the Men's Golf Association. I would like to take this time to thank John and his staff for all the time and effort that they put in to help us put together the best tournaments around. This year's officers are ready and eager to keep the tradition of MVGA going and striving to make it enjoyable and easy for all of our membership to play in the events scheduled for this year. *The maintenance staff is keeping the course in great shape with the limited funds available; make sure that you take the time to thank all of the staff at the Valley for what they do for us !!!*

We are looking forward to a great year starting with our first major tournament which is the Partner's Match Play Championship. The defending champions, Red Dobbins & Jack Spivey, are looking forward to taking on the competition again this year. The Senior Club Championship will take place in May and we will start the President's Cup in June. The two biggest events of the year come in September with the Dekalb Cup and the Club Championship. I look forward to seeing everyone at the Valley and hope you all enjoy the competition this year.

Gary Brinker  
President MVGA

### From the PRO SHOP

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Saturday and Sunday June 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> 2009 we will put on the first ever Dekalb County Amateur Golf Championship. This will be an individual 36 hole stroke play event. We will have regular, championship, and senior divisions for both ladies and men. There are entry forms available in the club house and at [www.mysteryvalley.com](http://www.mysteryvalley.com).

May is "Free Lesson Month" which is a promotion put on by the PGA and Golf Digest. In your May issue of Golf Digest you will find a card you can fill out and bring in to the Pro Shop to receive a free 15 minute lesson with John. Please call in advance to schedule.

We are hosting a local McGladrey Team Championship on Saturday August 8<sup>th</sup>. This event which is put on by the PGA replaces the Oldsmobile Scramble. We have information around the club house as well as at [www.pga.com](http://www.pga.com). The national finals of this event are played on the famous Pinehurst #2 course!

Starting in April we are hosting several ““Get Golf Ready in 5 Days”” clinics. These clinics are geared for the beginner or fairly new player. The clinics include five 1.5 hour sessions with our teaching staff. The cost is only \$99 for all five sessions. If you know anyone thinking of taking up the game or who has just started please tell them about this program. They can sign up at [www.getgolfready.com](http://www.getgolfready.com).

With the start of the golf season the course is busy with play and some tournaments and outings. You can keep up with what is going on at the club by looking at the calendar of events located in the grill. Also it is best to always call ahead before you come out to make sure the course is available

John Crumbley  
PGA Professional

### Notes from MAINTENANCE

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Spring is upon us. The fairways are starting to green up, and the greens are almost completely healed from aeration. This is one of the busiest times of the year for us. What should you be expecting to see over the next couple of months.

**Verticutting** is the vertical mowing of the turfgrass. Rather than the mower blades being parallel to the surface, they are perpendicular. This helps to remove some of the older leaves that prefer to lay flat rather than stand upright. Verticutting the greens helps provide a smoother, faster roll on the greens and reduces thatch build up

**Topdressing** is the application of sand to the putting surface. It may be used in conjunction with verticutting and aeration, or as a stand alone practice. Like verticutting, light topdressing helps provide a smoother, faster roll. It also increases water movement through the soil and reduces thatch build up.

**Aeration**. The greens have healed from the spring aeration where we removed large cores and topdressed heavily. Over the next couple of months, we will be aerating tees, fairways, and roughs. We will also be venting the greens periodically. Venting is just another form of aeration where small tines are used to open up the surface of the greens. It is not disruptive to the putting surface, but it is critical in getting oxygen to the root zone, alleviating compaction, and preventing dry spots on the greens. This helps us fight off disease and heat stress throughout the hotter months.

**Mowing**. The mowing season is upon us. We have started mowing fairways. Mowing of roughs will begin in the next week or so. You may notice painted lines around the fairways. These are to help us define the fairway cut until the roughs really start to grow and provide definition on the perimeters of the fairways.

**Projects**. We have a couple of projects planned for this year. First, we plan to sod many areas around the golf course. We cannot sod everything that we would like, but we will do the most critical areas. We plan to undertake the sod project in May. We will be doing quite a bit of irrigation work in preparation for the sod. Speaking of irrigation, we are still working with DeKalb County to get a complete renovation of the irrigation system. Progress is being made, but nothing will be started before this fall. Let’s cross our fingers and hope this gets done. You cannot imagine how much a new irrigation system would do for the quality of this course.

**Finally, I would like to ask for your help.**

- ☐ Please follow all cart rules.
- ☐ Please return to the path where the signs indicate and stay on the path around greens and tees.
- ☐ Please repair your ball marks and rake out your tracks in bunkers.
- ☐ Please encourage others to do so as well.

*Thanks for your continued loyalty to Mystery Valley Golf Club and your support of the staff.*

Chet Frazier  
Director of Golf Course Operations

**MVGA NEWS**

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**The MVGA wishes to congratulate Dick Gillespie on his appointment to the Board of Directors of the GSGA (Georgia State Golf Association) for a three year term.**

We asked Dick , since he's been playing here since persimmon with steel-shafts, about our relationship with the GSGA.

*"It started in the early 80's when the GSGA recognized the need to immerse the growing public sector into what previously was the province of the private club membership. Bull Creek down in Columbus was the first and Mystery Valley was second. Both associations were extremely active with memberships over 400 each. Wendell Couch from Conyers was the GSGA President then and with his partner , Gene Dahlbender, was Dekalb Cup Champions in 1977 & 78 and knew the 'Valley' people very well.*

*Public golf along with MVGA grew like wildfire in the mid 80's and the early adoption of the GHIN Handicap system created equal opportunities for Golf Associations to compete. When in 1985 I was elected MVGA President we had 447 members!!!! I joined the GSGA as a volunteer the following year at the behest of Dave Ayers our PGA Professional who served as consultant to the Public Golf Committee and I was assigned to them. We also fielded a team in the GSGA Interclub match play and had a very successful winning run. Some of our players were myself, Bill Spannuth, John McPherson, Bill Herring and Pentti Savola among others.*

*In 1989, the Public Golf Chairman asked me to be his assistant and we crafted our very first GSGA Publinx Golf championship. Played in June on a Monday and Tuesday at Stone Mountain, the Chairman,.. a certain Mr.Allen Doyle of La Grange, bested our legendary Red Dobbins to capture the very first GSGA Publinx Trophy!. Dave Ayers was the on course official and many MVGA members participated as players and volunteers.*

*The following year I recruited Pentti Savola to the GSGA Public Golf Committee whereupon he became an instant hit with everybody and was the first Public Golf member to be elected to the GSGA Board of Directors in 1994. He still serves as Senior Director. He was selected to the MVGA Lifetime membership honor roll in 1997.*

*I continued in my volunteer role with the newly formed GSGA Communications Committee overseeing the GEORGIA GOLF Magazine and currently the truly robust GSGA.ORG website... I still pledged my allegiance to the MVGA and was elected President for the second time in 2000 . We had quieted down by then to only 300 members. Along the line I also served as Secretary, Handicap Chairman and in 2005 was asked by the MVGA Bd to step in and perform as President as the elected candidate had to resign due to business commitments.*

*I truly relish the honor this year of being asked to join the GSGA Board but am equally as proud of my own MVGA Lifetime Membership designation. ....Long live Public Golf and long live Mystery Valley !!!!! "*

**From the LIGHTER SIDE**

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- The higher a golfer's handicap, the more qualified he deems himself as an instructor.
- Golf carts always run out of juice at the farthest point from the clubhouse.
- A severe slice is a thing of awesome power and beauty.
- The last three holes of a round will automatically adjust your score to what it really should be.