

**Pro Shop: 704 482 4286**

**riverbendymcagolf.org**

## Around the Pro Shop with Phil Wallace

**March, 2016**

**Volume 1, Issue 3**



River Bend's bunker renovation is almost complete! Now is the perfect time to make certain your personal sand wedge and bunker game are both up to par. Sand wedges are designed with flanges and different degrees of bounce to prevent the club from digging to deeply into the sand. Understanding the nature of the sand and the way bounce affects each shot is critical to successful execution from the sand. Now is the perfect time to go to the

far left of the practice tee and locate River Bend's practice sand bunker. Playing successful sand shots require the understanding of removing the sand rather than the ball.

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### Upcoming Events:

**April 2-3**

Cleve County Interclub  
Kings Mountain CC

**April 8**

Lane Alexander Memorial

**April 28**

Ruby C. Hunt YMCA Golf  
Tournament

**April 29**

Children's Home of Cleve-  
land County

**May 7**

Adult-Child Golf  
Tournament 5pm

## Youth Corner

Youth programs through The First Tee of the Foothills will begin April 11 at River Bend YMCA Golf Course. Coaches Corby Haneline, Bill Sherman and Katie Turner will be working with our youth this year. This summer The First Tee of the Foothills will sponsor the Summer Tour during June, July and August.

The PGA Junior Golf League is coming to River Bend YMCA Golf Course this spring and summer. Go to [PGA.org/PGAJLG](http://PGA.org/PGAJLG) and register your favorite junior golfer or call River Bend Professional, Phil Wallace for more information.

## On the Green with Russell Spangler



Don't we live in a great part of the world, 80 degrees on March 11? I always look forward to the changing of the seasons and feel fortunate to be working alongside Mother Nature to see it so closely. The grass is starting to pop, the trees are budding and the birds are singing. If you are not seeing and hearing this, come on out and enjoy!

The maintenance staff has been able to make some headway recently on bunkers putting in 75 tons of new sand on holes 12 and 13 bunkers. Enjoy playing from all bunkers that have been reworked. I just ask that you enter and exit the bunkers from the low side, avoiding walking on the faces. Hopefully we will be able to finish this project soon, thank you for your support and patience. We have also completed our spring weed prevention program treating 90 acres of turf. We look forward to weed free lush fairways, (and roughs dang it) tees and surrounds very soon. Hopefully spring has sprung and we will not get an 18

degree night on the last weekend of March like we did last year, setting everything back. We are keeping the greens covers and Tee Burton handy, just in case!!

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## On the Lighter Side

A man was addressing the ball when an announcement came over the loud-speaker: "Will the gentleman on hole number one please not hit from the Ladies' tee box."

The man backs away, a little distracted, then approaches his ball again. As he does, the same announcement comes over the loud-speaker: "Will the gentleman on hole number one please not hit from the Ladies' tee box."

The man is getting irritated now, and after backing away from his shot, approaches his ball one more time. This time the announcement came: "We really need the gentleman on hole number one to move off of the Ladies' tee box!"

To which the man turns around and yells: "And I really need the announcer to shut up and let me play my second shot!"

## On the Green with Russell *continued from p.1*

Hopefully you have noticed the "spring cleaning" and debris reduction this month. We are making a huge effort to clean up fallen debris before grass mowing commences. We hauled 6 truckloads of leaves, pine cones and sticks just from the right side of hole 14 on March 10, using 15 gallons of gas in the dump truck in a weeks' time. Thanks to my staff and the Cross Roads Rescue Mission Guys for all the work. We've decided however, that there is job security in debris removal as each pine tree has a million cones ready to come down. If you would like to purchase a load of pine cones, (they are great for decorating I hear) see any one of us.

Our mowing equipment is all serviced, sharpened and ready for the season and we are excited that the course will be looking great!!

Happy Easter to everyone!

Here's to birdies!

Russell Spangler

## Club House News

You may have noticed some new merchandise arriving in the club house. We have new golf equipment, shorts, shirts, and headwear in the shop now. Ask about getting fitted for woods, irons, wedges, and putters. Our prices are competitive and we encourage you to think about us when making your next purchase.

And, gift cards are available should you want to purchase one for a friend.

## Spotlight: Hole in One Achievers

Congratulations to the River Bend YMC Golf Course Hole-in-One Achievers. Way to go!

Marty Bradley	#5	03/13/2016	Mary Bradley	#12	08/15/2014
Frankie Howell	#5	03/11/2016	George Litton	#16	07/16/2014
Bill Titus	#16	02/29/2016	Rodney McGinnis	#5	05/22/2014
Jemmott Duncan	#5	02/07/2016	Tom Duncan	#12	04/26/2014
Jim Peterson	#16	01/16/2016	Harold Cook	#3	04/18/2014
Mike Martin	#3	03/29/2015	Les Brower	#16	2014
Mark Hopper	#3	03/08/2015	Doug Eury	#5	11/17/2013
Robert Splawn	#5	12/19/2015	Phil Wallace	#12	05/1981
Gary Barnett	#16	05/31/2015			

Please let us know of any other Hole-in-One Achievers.

## Check out our Web Site

You may want to visit our web site at [riverbendymcagolf.com](http://riverbendymcagolf.com).

We have included current information to help communicate what's going on around the course. Note under the 'EVENTS' tab; 'UPCOMING EVENTS' you can see what golf events are coming up throughout the year. Many events have fliers attached so that you can learn about the event and sign up to play. Just click on the calendar event and then click on the attached document.

Have a look around the web site and let us know what you think. Any suggestions that you have would be helpful as we continue to improve our communications to our members.

## Around the Pro Shop with Phil *continued from p. 1*

Draw circles in the sand about the size of a fried egg and practice removing the entire circle at a shallow depth of a half inch. Address the shot with an open clubface and open stance with the ball placed forward in your stance. The swing should be outside to inside and the bounce should enter the sand first instead of the leading edge of the clubface. Be sure to take a full and slow golf swing. This practice technique will enable you to negotiate most greenside bunker shots successfully.

Buried lies in the sand are played by squaring or slightly closing the blade so that the club digs into the sand rather than gliding or bouncing through the sand. A steep and downward swing is necessary to remove the ball from this buried position. Allow for ample roll because the ball will come out with little or no spin very much like a "knuckle ball". This shot comes in handy when all you see is the top of your ball.

Remember, playing bunker shots can be an enjoyable part of your game if you possess the skill and confidence to get the ball out of the sand and close to the hole. You can improve your sand play by having the correct sand wedge, a better understanding of bunker shot execution and the right practice habits!