



Rock Harbor News

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Things I Love About Golf in the Fall

By: T.J. Auclair, PGA.com

Fall golf is a double-edged sword, especially for those of us who live in areas that experience all four seasons.

On the one hand, it's bar none the most beautiful, most scenic time of the year to hit the links. On the other hand, it means that golf season will be ending... quickly.

As the temperatures drop and the colors of the leaves change, here are some of the things I love most about golf during the fall season.



15 Rock in full fall bloom

The weather. It might be a little crisp at times, but isn't it a nice change of pace from those brutally hot summer days on the course? Isn't it also nice to not have your clothes sticking to you because of sweat while you try to take a swing? Everything about the fall is just a little more comfortable than the rest of the year.

Usually, it's less expensive. Yeah, that might mean having to deal with the necessary evil that is aerated greens, but the fall season typically offers some great deals at courses you may other wise skip over because of the cost of a round. Is there a course on your list that you usually believe to be out of your price range? Do yourself a favor and check out their fall rates.

Lowered expectations. That one might seem silly, but it could also be the key to help you post some great late-season goals. Playing late in the season, sometimes, is a bonus and you can appreciate the fact that you're out there more because the days are so much shorter. With leaves falling and maybe not the best of greens, you're probably not teeing it up with the thought that you're going to shoot lights out. That helps keep your mind off the score and frees you up to focus on the shot at hand.

The post-round drink. This is great any season, no doubt, but after a round in the fall -- instead of a beer or other libation -- it could be a nice, warm Irish coffee or a hot chocolate.

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Fresh From The Grill

*Beau Rudiger,
RH Grill Manager:*

The days are getting shorter and with Daylight Savings Time the schedule at the Grill will change a little. Our new hours will be posted next week (Facebook and our website).

The Grill will be trimming

the menu in November to streamline and take off some of the items that aren't moving as quickly as we had hoped. The food and beverage set up on number 7 Rock, will be closing up shop until Spring. We hope to roll out more new items for your convenience out there on the

course, in Spring of 2019.

Also we are now booking Holiday parties either at the Grill or in home catering, for anyone that is interested please call me or stop in. We can customize a menu for any budget.



Saturday Evening Dinner Hours 5-8:30 PM

Things I Love About Fall Golf.....

The course is usually firmer. As the temperatures go down (and if you haven't had much rain), the ground typically firms up. Catch a good drive in the right conditions and there's a chance you're going to see a lot more roll out in the fairways than you're used too... keep that in mind too for your approach shots. You might want to club down a touch hitting into the firmer greens.

The courses are less crowded. Pace of play is so much better in the fall since there just aren't as many players out there. If you're usually a cart golfer, this is a great time to walk instead. Aside from the obvious health benefits, it keeps the blood flowing and keeps you warm for that next shot. Also, when you're not having to focus on driving a cart, you can spend more time taking in your surroundings... which brings us to what we love most...

The surroundings. Trees with leaves covering all the hues of greens, yellows, reds and oranges. It's like playing golf in a painting, isn't it?

T.J. Auclair is a Senior Interactive Producer for PGA.com and has covered professional golf since 1998, traveling to over 60 major championships. You can follow him on Twitter, [@tjaclair](#).

The Green

Chris Dieter, Course Superintendent:

I have to agree with the Virginia Turfgrass Association President when he said, '2018 just go away. The year of weeds, ABW (Annual Bluegrass Weevil), Chinch Bugs, Winter Kill, Grey Leaf Spot, Pythium, declining labor force, flooding. . .' To add

to his list record rainfall, record numbers of worms, bailing hay more than cutting grass, and a landslide. This will be a memorable year.

Despite the weather I will make the promise that the bunkers on Rock 10 and Boulder 18 will be done this year. Actually should be done by the time you are reading this newsletter. We did have some successful projects. The bunkers on boulder #3 completed to include adding drainage to the front of the green which no longer puddles. Two of the bunkers on Boulder #16 are dressed up. We did a process called dry-ject to Boulder #4 and #8 greens. (Picture top right—Boulder #4) This was to improve the soil moisture holding capacity. Several greens, Boulder 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, were having issues caused by the lack of moisture holding ability in the soil. By the Dry-ject process we injected a porcelain material called Profile into the green. Only two greens were done to confirm that this would increase the moisture capacity and it did, by 25%. The plan will now be to do the rest of the problem greens in the Spring during aerification.

A few other positive things this year:

Earliest any green has been aerified in the morning at Rock Harbor, 5:00 AM. (Picture Left, Boulder # 8)



Aerified, topdressed, and verticle mowed several tees, when it wasn't raining.

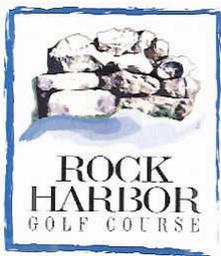
(picture bottom Boulder 3 Tee)

Most recently topdressed, aerified, verticle mowed a few fairways.

It has been a challenging year but as with our putts what would the easy ones be without the hard ones to compare.

As always feel free to stop me anytime for questions, comments, or criticisms.





Pictorial Diary

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Questions/Comments or Suggestions Welcomed



Where is this large boulder (beside the guy in green)? Which hole claims this oddly shaped boulder as its own?

We're on Facebook,
Twitter and Instagram

We're on the web
Rockharborgolf.com

Happy
Thanksgiving

*from everyone at
Rock Harbor Golf Course*

