



# Golf Course News

By Todd Bidlespacher, Golf Course Superintendent

## Have you Seen any Bluebirds?

A few months ago, I did an article for *News and Views* on our Wood Duck boxes that were recently installed on all of the golf course ponds. When I was writing that piece, I thought I should really do one covering our Bluebird boxes located around the property, so here it is.

As many of you already know, these boxes were installed about five years ago on both the Flynn and Highlands golf courses. We started out with 18 boxes and over the years our number has grown to 24, which is the current total. The boxes were constructed by Leonard Mayberry, who is an employee on our grounds staff and is also responsible for most of our other woodworking projects around the course.

The first few seasons were not very productive for attracting Bluebirds. In all honesty, besides occasional cleanings and bringing them in for repairs during the winter season, we really did



not put in the necessary effort or have a thorough understanding of the requirements needed to succeed.

Two years ago, we began the process for gaining Audubon certification for the golf course and that's when our approach to managing the boxes changed. Thankfully, we are blessed to have an expert involved with them now. Dean Rust, who is a neighbor to the golf course, has volunteered his time to help manage our Bluebird trail (as well as several others in the area) and what a success he has made it!

Dean comes out every Monday to inspect and monitor each box for us. He opens every one and checks the condition of the nest and records the activity for that week. He has offered many recommendations for keeping predators, parasites or unwanted species from invading the boxes and has also offered suggestions on improving



our boxes and keeping moisture out of them and creating a conducive environment for attracting Bluebirds

With Dean's assistance and expertise, we fledged over 40 Bluebirds in 2010, and through the first third of the 2011 season, we have already fledged over 40 birds. We have set a goal of trying to reach 100 for this year and with the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> "brood season" still remaining, we are confident that this target will probably be exceeded.

Please stop by the bulletin board, outside the Golf Shop for further information regarding our Bluebird trail.

## Junior Golf

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Waleski with an 86. The winner for the 18-Hole Girls was Dana Droz with a 94. Our 6-Hole Girls winner was Annie Shand with a score of 41.

Check the Junior Golf web page for the date and times for Friday play. We would like to see all the Juniors out on Friday mornings!



**CADDIE-MEMBER TOURNAMENT**  
**Monday, August 1**

See Tobe Fischer for details or to sign up.

## Member Monday

### July 11, 2011

### Flynn Course



Members are invited to host from 7 to 19 guests. The field will be limited to **120** players. The cost per person will be \$250. Entry includes the following:

- Luncheon ■ Favor for each Guest ■ On-Course Refreshments ■ Use of Practice Facilities
- Guest Greens Fees ■ Golf Cart (additional fee for Caddy) ■ Dinner

It promises to be a most enjoyable day! For more details, visit the website or contact a member of the Golf Professional Staff, 393-4064.

Deadline for entries is Sunday, July 3, 2011  
(charge for cancellations after this date)