



WELCOME TO THE 2011 GOLF SEASON

To all Members and Prospective Members of
Cottonwood Golf Club

Cottonwood Golf Course
2241 Highway 10
(701) 475-2416
www.cottonwoodgolfnd.com

Board of Directors
PO Box 84
Steele, ND 58482

Dear Members:

It is with great pleasure we bring you information about changes, improvements, and volunteer opportunities available at Cottonwood for the 2011 golf season. The course took many actions in 2010 to improve the overall health of the course and realizes these efforts must not only continue, but must intensify in 2011. We are asking members to take part in our plans and encourage your ideas regarding fundraising or grant opportunities for the golf course. Please bring your ideas to any board members or employees of Cottonwood.

Additional ways in which you can help the course include:

- Bringing neighbors, new members of the community, friends and family to the course to golf and encourage membership
- Organize a team to play in a tournament
- Volunteer one day a month to mow rough or weed eat
- Volunteer to help out on with special events at the course, such as tournament days
- Participate in fundraisers and encourage neighbors, new members of the community, friends and family to participate in these events
- Pursue grants. This includes finding, writing and submitting grants for additional funds
- Volunteer for the board. There will be three board positions vacant, we ask anyone with the ability to become heavily involved, develop creative solutions, and work well as a team to join. We encourage fresh ideas and energy.
- Donate items commonly used at the course: stamps, coffee, condiments, salad dressing, door prizes for tournaments or men's/ladies night
- Purchase memberships, pro shop merchandise, or Cottonwood Bucks for birthday and holiday presents

Cottonwood was not able to financially meet our expenses in 2010. Even though Cottonwood is a public golf course, there are no public funds available for maintenance of the course. Cottonwood is funded solely on memberships, greens fees, tournaments, sale of food and beverages, sales from the pro shop and fundraising events. Some expenses for the course include:

- In 2010, we experienced severe difficulties with a mower which forced the maintenance crew to change blades in order to mow each area of the course appropriately with just one mower. The board made a decision to replace the problem mower, which was a large expense for the course.
- The sogginess of some areas of the course was caused by water line breaks. The course underwent construction late in the 2010 golf year to repair these breaks. Partial cause is believed to be associated with the water pump which was replaced and the water pressure settings on this pump which will require additional work in 2011.
- There are ongoing operational and maintenance expenses for the grounds, buildings, and equipment necessary to maintain the course. In 2010, we updated some electrical at the clubhouse in order to meet code. In addition, you may have noticed that the exterior of the clubhouse was painted by a group of volunteers. There are additional electrical upgrades required for the club house, as well as looking for improved solutions to our air conditioning issues.
- We have some paid labor for maintenance and club house management. The course employees work on a contract basis to complete the work necessary to maintain the course on a daily basis. Our current employees donate a substantial amount to course as all are dedicated to keeping the course maintained and available for the community. Ideally we could look at reducing expenses with volunteer labor, as the work needs to be done to keep the course operating. One other area we are investigating is reducing the hours the clubhouse is open.

Unfortunately, in 2011, the board was forced to raise membership dues to cover financial loses. The board did extensive research of area 9-hole courses in rural North Dakota with similar setup and community to the Steele / Kidder County area. You will find that we were able to keep our rates very comparable to similar courses, in fact even after the increase, we still have one of the lowest membership rates of the courses researched.

In addition, Cottonwood has substantially increased fundraising efforts in 2010. These fundraisers include adding tournaments (such as the Early Bird where all profits go to the course), the ticket raffle (see a board member if you would like tickets to the raffle), poker tournament in February, turkey shoot in December, and a Football Raffle in August. In addition, the board and tournament volunteers extended efforts to increase the number of donated tournament prizes,

donated prizes for the multiple fundraising events, golf course signage, and sponsorships such as the child abuse prevention sponsorship included with this letter.

The board will also be asking for volunteers to assist by establishing a volunteer schedule at the club house for members or other community volunteers to participate where needed, such as with mowing the rough. Historically the highest amount of volunteer hours comes from the board members and their families, as well as the course employees. In efforts to control expenses and labor costs, it will be important to increase volunteer hours to help maintain the course.

In an effort to attract new and past members, the board is issuing \$50 in Cottonwood Bucks to current members that enroll a new or past member for the 2011 golfing season under a single or family membership. Cottonwood Bucks can be use for food, beverage, cart storage/rental, greens fees, pro shop, and membership dues.

The board wishes to encourage golf etiquette be followed on the golf course at all times. Anyone found destroying club property or damaging the grounds or equipment, will be removed from the course and disciplinary action will be taken. The board requires that no one be allowed to rent a public golf cart unless one of the persons is at least 16 years of age and has a valid driver's license. Please refer to the rules on the backside of the golf card.

Our annual meeting will be held on Tuesday, April XX, 2011 at 6:37 PM at the Steele Veterans Club. We urge all members to attend and participate. There will be three board seats up for election.

Below we have listed our fee schedule along with an application form. Please pay your fees at the golf club or send them to: Cottonwood Golf Course, PO Box 84, Steele ND 58482-0084. All membership cards can be picked up at the club house. Please ask for your card if you have paid. We ask that all fees be paid by April 15, 2011. All memberships need to be paid before you play or you will be required to pay greens fees.

Ladies night will be every Wednesday. Men's night will be every Thursday.

REMINDER: If you store your golf cart in the course storage building, please remember that you need to carry your own insurance on the cart. The golf course only insures the building.

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. Cottonwood Golf Course is pleased to join efforts with Kidder County Social Services in support of Child Abuse Prevention by including an information brochure in this mailing. In return, Child Abuse Prevention will sponsor a hole at the Early Bird Tournament on May 28, 2011. Also, people who purchase their membership within the month of April will become registrants for a prize drawing from Child Abuse Prevention. For more information on abuse awareness, please stop at the Kidder County Courthouse.

The fee schedule is as follows (Please remember to add sales tax to the fees):

9-Hole Greens Fees - \$15; 18-Hole Greens Fees - \$20; Cart Rental – 9-Holes \$15 – 18-Holes \$20

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION			
Name:		Phone Number:	
Address:		Email Address	
City/State/Zip:			
Type of Membership	Family Membership - \$290 Single Membership - \$225 College Membership - \$95 Junior Membership - \$75	Effective April 15, 2011 – April 14, 2012	\$
Request for Cart Storage	Gas \$130 Electric \$150	Effective April 15, 2011 – April 14, 2012	\$
Handicapping	\$15 per person		\$
Subtotal of fees of membership, cart storage, and handicapping fees			\$
Sales Tax at 5% times Subtotal (Please include taxes on your membership)			\$
TOTAL TAX AND FEES PAID			\$