



## Carolinan Golf Association

# Cherokee National Golf & CC



**AGRONOMY REPORT**  
**Bill Anderson, CGCS Agronomist**  
**Carolinan Golf Association**  
**Date of Visit: May 14, 2019**

*The Carolinas Golf Association is an educational organization founded in 1909 to promote and protect the game of golf in the Carolinas by providing competitions, education, support and benefits to golfers.*

*The CGA is the second largest golf association in the country with 685 member clubs represented by over 150,000 individuals. With its rich legacy, championship traditions and commitment to the future of the game, the CGA has been a steward of golf in the Carolinas for over one hundred years.*

*The activities and services of the Carolinas Golf Association are governed by an Executive Committee consisting of Carolinas golfers who wish to serve the game and the association through service.*



# Carolinan Golf Association

**To: Todd Roberson, Golf Course Superintendent of Cherokee National Golf & CC**

**Fr: Bill Anderson, CGCS Carolinas Golf Association Agronomist**

**Re: Site visit on May 14, 2019**

Dear Todd,

On behalf of the Carolinas Golf Association, we thank you again for the yearly opportunity to assist in your golf course maintenance and overall improvement program. Also a special thanks to Green Committee Chairman Charles Hartzog, for his commitment of time and personal interest to the success of the club.

Our site visit consisted of a morning tour with numerous stops to discuss issues, new initiatives and challenges. The overall theme of the day was everyone's wish to develop a plan of action to continue the ongoing improvements to the course. With the basic agronomic program on very sound footing, improvements continue to be observed every year. Listed below are the topics and my suggestions for the club to consider during this process.

## **Golf Course Topics of Interest:**

- 1. Current Conditions**
- 2. Greens**
- 3. Mow Less Areas**
- 4. Encroachment of Collar Grasses**
- 5. Fairway Fertility**
- 6. Weed Control**
- 7. Equipment**
- 8. Conclusion**



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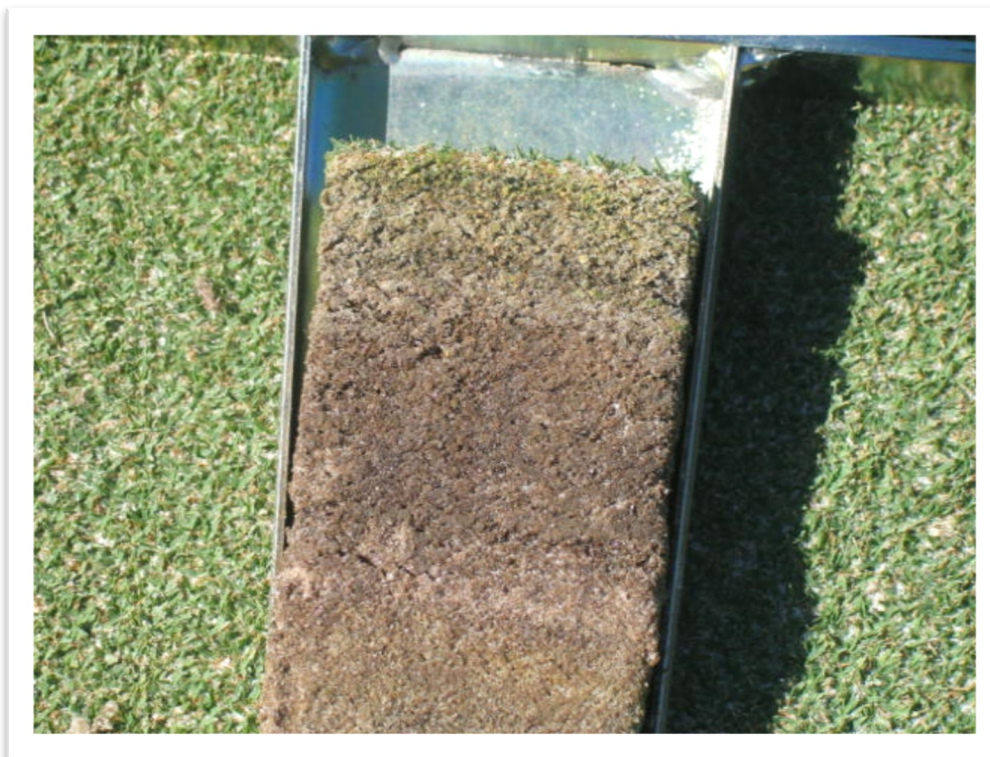
### 1. Current Conditions



On the day of my visit I found the course in excellent condition. With Todd's small budget and limited manpower, the overall course conditions are well above expected and a credit to Todd and the entire club's leadership to evaluate priorities and make the difficult, but correct choices as to where to spend the club's resources. This is not always the case in my travels and it is a pleasure to see your results with smart, limited inputs. Continue on this course, as it is producing obviously good results.

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### 2. Greens



The basic Ultra Dwarf Greens management program implemented by Todd is as good as any I visit these days. The greens are healthy, and the build up of the organic matter layer in the top inch is well under control. This is keeping the thatch levels at the correct 1/2 in level, which is ideal for overall greens health, and for golf shot acceptance.

The current, aggressive one time per year aerification in June is working well for achieving both agronomic results, and for achieving these results with minimum golfer inconvenience. I have not come across a better program which does both. Continue this plan/program for the foreseeable future, and the greens will continue to perform at the current high level to offer many weeks of great greens.



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### 3. Mow Less Areas



I always recommend that small budget clubs look for ways to reduce the costs of general routine maintenance. Todd and the club's introduction of your "Mow Less Areas" is exactly what I'm talking about.

You have designated many areas that are not normally in play, to be mowed every three weeks at the higher 3.5 in height of cut. This saves labor that can be rechanneled to other tasks. And, adds more visual definition to the overall look of the course.

This is a win/win program. I will be sharing this with other clubs looking for cost saving suggestions. As this "Mow Less" program goes into the summer, look for additional areas to add, and save even more.

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### 4. Encroachment of Collar Grasses



The issue of encroachment on non Ultra Dwarf Bermuda's in the edges of the Ultra Dwarf Greens is a common problem at most all clubs. There is no chemical that offers selective control, and we are left with some type of mechanical removal that works fair at best.

The only clubs I see that can do this, have large budgets and staff than allows them to assign the work of edging and hand removal of runners on a weekly basis, with no exceptions. This will slow the encroachment down, but it is expensive, and a club must be committed from the onset of greens planting to physically manage this edge area.

My best recommendation is to start planning now for the chemical kill, and resodding these areas sometime in the future. Some clubs plan on a yearly program of resodding several greens edges each year, with either purchased sod, or sod from your club's own nursery.

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### 5. Fairway Fertility



As I have stated in the past, it is my opinion the fairways would benefit from additional fertilizer. I realize this is a budget and mowing labor issue, however, I believe you will observe immediate results in strong color and turf density.

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### 6. Weed Control



I offer two suggestions on additional weed control:

1. Treat all fairways and roughs (warm season grass only) with Plateau this summer at 2 oz. per acre for general weed control. And any break through of control of any crab or goose grass.
2. Substitute Sencor for Simazine this fall for possible better Poa Annua control next winter. Some research shows it may have better control on Simazine resistant Poa annua.



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### 7. Equipment



During this past year Todd has added two new, large pieces of equipment to the fleet. The large brush shown, and a large roller are greatly adding to the productivity of the basic greens grooming program.

This allows Todd to do the required practices with a limited number of people. This is exactly the correct approach. I suggest the club expand into more efficient rough mowing, as there are outstanding options available now to increase efficiency in that area.

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### CONCLUSION

It was a pleasure to visit **Cherokee National Golf & CC** and spend the day with you. I hope you find the report useful as you improve the care and conditions on your course.

Again, please call me at 704-363-1381 if you have any questions. I hope to return soon, as I look forward to a continuing working arrangement with your club.

Sincerely,

*Bill Anderson*

**Bill Anderson**, CGCS Agronomist

Carolinas Golf Association

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