

## **1973**

Meeting minutes and letters from 1973 show the Committee working at a feverish pace to get the Course open by mid-summer as targeted when the clearing of the land began in 1972. But problems crop up continuously - many driven by water. (Post-rain drainage challenges in low-lying sections continue to this day). It's two steps forward and one step back for most of the year.

**JANUARY**: The year opens with some Committee members expressing frustration that Superintendent Fischer is not moving fast enough. At the same time, reports show a series of "Volunteer Saturdays" where all comers are welcome. Committee member Ray Phelan cut the path from 16 to 17 with the assistance of Frank Birch. ([1973-1](#))

**FEBRUARY**: In what becomes an ongoing issue during construction, washouts cause damage to some areas, requiring completed work to be re-done. Hole 2 was hit badly and the ponds are silting up. The 7th Tee is "not draining well" and runoff on 8 is "pretty bad". The low area on the 13th Fairway and in front of the 14th Tee are issues as well. ([1973-1a](#) and [1972-2](#))

**APRIL**: Water issues continue - to the point Don Brooks "suddenly plunged in the bog waist deep" while walking between 13 and 14. (He was alone, and had to grab low hanging tree limbs to wriggle himself out!) Fazio wants 15 to dry out before any further work is attempted. The Committee trades the cost of a previously planned irrigation system on 15 for the expense of backfilling on 6 and 7, as well as drainage on 13, 14, and 16.

One bright spot - grass growth is occurring at such a pace that the Committee finds it "urgent that manpower for mowing be hired (*even women-power considered*)". ([1973-4](#))

**JULY**: The race against the clock runs up against reality - the target date of a midsummer opening cannot be met. The USGA recommends deferring the opening to 1974 or risk damage to the Course that would take years to mend. ([1973-7](#)) At the same time, the Maintenance staff is upped to 4 Full Timers and 1 Part Timer to handle the "increased workload".

**AUGUST**: Problems abound with Buildings; an Injury to Supt. Fischer has him working on crutches; there are Pump failures; and a demand that D'Agostino finish his work; ([1973- 12](#))

**OCTOBER**: The team is juggling many issues: Power at the Site; Volunteers; Missed Communications; Re-routing Mopus Brook; and the Clubhouse is discussed. ([1973-14](#)) Fazio is impressed; 15 is re-graded; Fencing-off the soft area for safety; a new Tee on 12; three other Tees reseeded; Fertilizer gets put down and the Greens aerated; even Vandalism. ([1973-15](#))

**DECEMBER**: The year ends with discussion about hiring a Golf Pro and praise for Volunteers who have done a lot of work between 6 & 7, between 6 & 12, and near 4, 11 and 16. Ray Phelan is tasked with coordinating with Parks & Rec to determine possible other recreation services at the site. Evidently non-golfers want some benefit from this acreage. ([1973-19](#))