

British Columbia Golf Member Newsletter

April 2009

US Open Packages Special to BCGA Members

Package 1# (for travel June 19-22, 2009)

Catch the 3rd & 4th Rounds of the 2009 US Open Golf Championships

- * Roundtrip airfare from Vancouver to New York (JFK) on Cathay Pacific.
 - * 3 Night Accommodations at the Doubletree Hotel or Hampton Inn (3 Star)
 - * 3 Day economy car rental with unlimited mileage
 - * Ground Admission Passes for the 3rd & 4th round of the US Open Golf Championship at Bethpage State Park
- Cathay Pacific Flight departs Vancouver at approximately 10:30 pm the evening of June 18th.
Package price is \$1499 per person plus air taxes of approximately \$130.00
Terms and Conditions - Price based on double occupancy. Price is subject to change without notice and is based on hotel, flight, car and ground pass availability. Price will be confirmed at time of booking. Offer maybe withdrawn or modified at any time without prior notification.

Package 2# (for travel June 18-22, 2009)

Catch all 4 Rounds of the 2009 US Open Golf Championships

- * Roundtrip airfare from Vancouver to New York (JFK) on Cathay Pacific.
 - * 4 Night Accommodations at the Doubletree Hotel or Hampton Inn (3 Star)
 - * 4 Day economy car rental with unlimited mileage
 - * Ground Admission Passes for all 4 rounds of the US Open Golf Championship at Bethpage State Park
- Cathay Pacific Flight departs Vancouver at approximately 10:30 pm the evening of June 17th.
Package price is \$2069 per person plus air taxes of approximately \$130.00
Terms and Conditions - Price based on double occupancy. Price is subject to change without notice and is based on hotel, flight, car and ground pass availability. Price will be confirmed at time of booking. Offer maybe withdrawn or modified at any time without prior notification.

Call the Flight Centre toll free line 1-866-514-3710 or contact Lyle Truden at lyle.truden@flightcentre.ca

What is Aerification and Why is it Necessary?

The majority of golf courses aerify twice per year, in the spring and again in the fall.

Aerification is a mechanical process in which a soil plug, also known as a core, is removed from the ground. Out of all the turf maintenance practices performed on a golf course aerification is one of the most important. Aerification achieves three important objectives. It relieves soil compaction, it improves the soil profile and reduces the accumulation of thatch.

Over time, traffic from golfers as well as equipment compact the soil under the turf. Compacted soils reduce the amount of oxygen available to the roots. Compaction also limits water and nutrient movement into the soil. The removal of the soil plug allows the soil to expand and provides a channel for oxygen to enter the root zone. This also enables water and nutrients to reach the root zone, ensuring a healthier plant.

After the soil plug is removed, the holes are filled with sand. Filling them with sand improves drainage and helps resist compaction. Sand also helps the soil retain air space, creating a better soil profile for root growth.

Finally, most turf has a layer of organic matter close to the surface. This layer is called thatch, which is an accumulation of dead leaves, stems and roots. Excessive thatch buildup can lead to an increase in diseases and insects.

As you can see turf quality is greatly impacted on what goes on below the surface. Maintaining a consistent aerification program is very important in providing a good playing surface for golfers to enjoy.

Source: Oregon Golf Association Newsletter

Bear Mountain Resort Valley Course opens May 31, 2009

The Bear Mountain Resort Valley Course – the second of two Nicklaus Design golf courses at Bear Mountain - will make its debut on May 31st and positions Bear Mountain Resort as the only 36-hole Nicklaus Design golf offering in Canada. No name is more legendary in the game of golf, including golf course design, than Jack Nicklaus. The developers at Bear Mountain Resort first brought the legend to Victoria in 2003 when they introduced the Mountain Course - a 19-hole beauty that was the first ever collaboration of Jack and his son, Steve. The Valley Course's par 71, 6,807 yard, 18-hole Nicklaus Design is at a lower elevation than the Mountain Course, but boasts the same spectacular west coast rock and water features for which Bear Mountain has become renowned. As Jack himself put it when discussing the Valley Course "I promise you this is going to be something pretty special".

The Nicklaus Design Valley and Mountain Courses are the cornerstone to Bear Mountain's premiere master-planned resort community. Bear Mountain Resort's lush mountainside community defines resort living with a montage of residential and vacation real estate opportunities as well as the five star Westin Bear Mountain Golf Resort & Spa, Victoria. Medical and traditional aesthetics at the Santé Spa, ranked one of the top ten medical spas in the world by SpaFinder, a dining mecca with eclectic and world-class restaurants, the state-of-the-art Mountainside Athletic Club, a Nicklaus Golf Academy (coming in 2010), and The Village round out the complete lifestyle experience. And all of this within minutes of the beautiful seaside harbour of Victoria, British Columbia!

The Bear Mountain Resort Valley Course is destined to be one of the marquee courses on the Vancouver Island Golf Trail. A 250-kilometre golf trail through a Pacific paradise, the Vancouver Island Golf Trail extends from Victoria to Campbell River. It covers some of the most scenic terrain on the island, which is ranked as the Top North American Island by *Conde Nast Traveler* Magazine. From the breathtaking beauty of Bear Mountain Resort and Olympic View Golf Club in the south, to the opulence and luxury of Crown Isle Resort in the North, the Vancouver Island Golf Trail includes 11 championship golf facilities and some of the best golf in North

America. The variety of courses to choose from is rivaled only by the regional diversity and multiple vacation experiences that Vancouver Island has to offer. Discover the old-world ambience of cosmopolitan Victoria, the Cowichan Valley wine country, the magnificent beaches of Parksville & Qualicum Beach and the pristine wilderness of the North Island - you can explore it all on the Vancouver Island Golf Trail.

Hailed by GOLF Magazine as 'One of the continent's best values', Golf Vancouver Island proudly offers buyer direct golf packages, including rounds on the new Bear Mountain Valley Course opening on May 31st! Victoria golf packages including 2 nights accommodation and 2 rounds of golf, one at the Valley Course are available from \$285 pp. Owned and operated by the golf courses of Vancouver Island, Golf Vancouver Island offers the best pricing and selection and through their toll free line 1.888.465.3239 can take care of all your golf vacation needs on Vancouver Island including tee times, accommodations, rental vehicles, flights, ferry reservations, driving directions, après golf activities and more!

For further information on Bear Mountain Resort, their new Valley Course and the Vancouver Island Golf Trail, please visit www.bearmountain.ca and www.golfvancouverisland.ca

Book your tee time on-line!

The BC Golf Association has entered into an agreement with GolfSwitch, the world's largest provider of on-line tee time bookings, to provide you with instant booking capability at many of BC's best courses. The process is simple, fast and offers you a complete selection of available tee times, as well as special offers from courses.

Its simple. Go to www.bcgga.org and click on BCGA Travel Club. On this new section of the BCGA website, you'll find on the right hand side a block for "Book Tee Times Online". Clicking here will take you to a listing of the courses that have links to GolfSwitch with their tee time booking software. You'll be able to access the course's tee sheet information to see what times are available on any date, even months into the future. The courses' fees for the tee time are shown for each time. You'll then be able to select the tee time you want, and pay for it online with your credit card through a secure payment system.

You can also obtain information on each of the courses and also enter your own reviews, or read other reviews of the course. You can also book complete trips. If you are going to Whistler as an example, you'll be able to check all four courses for availability for the times you want and select them well in advance. No need to phone courses, find out each availability, phone others, and then phone back to reconfirm.

You can do it easily online!

Kamloops - Canada's Hottest New Golf Destination

This golf season, experience what the media recently hailed as "the hottest market in Canadian golf". GolfKamloops.com showcases some of the best golf courses in British Columbia with its six diverse Kamloops layouts.

Experience breathtaking Tobiano, just awarded "Canada's Best New Golf Course of the Year" by both ScoreGolf and Golf Digest magazines, the new lake front gem Talking Rock, Robert Trent Jones Sr. designed Rivershore

Golf Links, Irish-inspired links course The Dunes at Kamloops, contoured landscape and majestic vistas at Sun Rivers Golf Course or British Columbia's highest elevated course at Sun Peaks Golf Course. Play all six golfkamloops.com courses.