

March 2010



# KEN'S KORNER

## GREATE BAY COUNTRY CLUB

## Here Comes the Sun

I can't help but to look forward to the coming golf season. The course, having been rested through the winter, is healthy and in good shape. Our staff is back to work and excited to "go"! All we need now is *You!*

Last fall we continued to improve the tees by leveling and re-sodding the white tee on 13, the white/yellow on 9, and the forward tees on 2 and 7. We also made repairs to the white tee on 5, and did some needed tree pruning around tees to allow the sun to penetrate down to the turf! This coming spring, we plan to use a machine called the "verti-quake" that will actually shake the soil on the tees to a depth of a foot - this action will loosen the compaction and will help facilitate better rooting and drainage.



The February storms took a toll on many of the cedar, holly and pine trees throughout the golf course. The ice and snow weighted down the evergreens causing many tops and branches to break. A few trees became uprooted and fell. For the most part, the trees will recover in time - nature is very good at repairing itself.

This past December, we achieved certification from Audubon International as a Golf Course Cooperative Sanctuary. Less than 2% of golf courses world wide have ever received this designation. To become certified, we dedicated and then documented our efforts to reduce pesticide use, protect our waters, provide habitat for wildlife, and educate the surrounding community about the ways to become environmental stewards.

I started a blog that you can access through our website, [www.Greatebay.com](http://www.Greatebay.com), under the Greens tab. I will provide you with timely updates of what's going on in our department and how we meet the challenges of caring for the course. I am hoping that it will keep you informed and become one of your favorite sites on the web!

Now that winter is coming to an end, we are stepping forward into spring with great hopes and plans. I have a strong feeling that it is going to be a great year for the course and for golf at Great Bay. Looking forward to seeing you out on the greens once again!

*Ken Thompson, Golf Course Superintendent*

*It's always a Great day at Great Bay!*