

Rain, rain, go away all the golfers want to play! That phrase is my take on a familiar children's rhyme that I believe is going through the minds of every member of CWGA! What was supposed to be our opening day breakfast and Shotgun Scramble on April 6th, turned out to be a leisurely and delicious breakfast. What did not happen was golf!

However, having no control over the weather, we fully adjusted and enjoyed the breakfast with a full house of CWGA members represented by returning members as well as many of the 20 new members. Chris Benzel, PGA General Manager opened the gathering with welcoming remarks and related to us that 50 years ago, CLGA, started with 27 members. Today CWGA is 114 members strong! During the breakfast members were able to preview our awesome new website and a beautiful photo slide show of our members as well as get updates on local rules. We also had the opportunity to get a hard copy of our snazzy new handbook and receive a gift in honor of our 50th Anniversary, a beautiful golf towel with our classy new logo!

Another advantage to the rainy start of our season is that since no one was in a rush to leave for the 9:30 Shotgun Scramble start, I was able to convince the new members to stay to talk with me about why they joined CWGA. Here is what I learned. More than half of our new members came from other women's golf clubs. So, they are not new to golf. Many are newly retired or released from caregiver situations and therefore have time to devote to a sport they love. Most stated their desire to participate in a golf organization that supports growth and improvement of golf skills while having fun. More play time with golfers who are skilled golfers is another reason some decided to join. Developing new relationships and friendships is another strong desire of the new group. Any of these reasons sound familiar? Many of the same reasons would describe why I joined CWGA last year, and if you have been reading any of my columns for the past couple months, you already know that I am extremely satisfied with my decision. I believe every returning member of CWGA will share one of my goals and that is to reach out to new members throughout the season to encourage and support them as well as to present opportunities for new members to become involved in as many CWGA activities as possible.

As the saying goes, "April showers bring May flowers." And while I love May flowers, I for one hope that we see some clear skies for our Tuesday and Thursday play days in April and May. Since there is a scramble every month hopefully, the May 4th and June 1st scrambles will provide us with the opportunity to play in these events as well as enjoy lunch and laughter with our golf friends! While we all know that you can never count on clear skies in Oregon until July, I am praying to the Universe or the Golf Gods (whoever will listen) to send us sun for June 15th for the Partners Tournament, an event that is promising to be fun and exciting! Looking a little further ahead, CWGA members will want to get as many rounds of golf as possible of completed to prepare for the Handicap Tournament on July 13th and 14th. Hopefully, we will get enough good weather so that can happen for many of us. I wonder how many "Rain, Rain Go Away" songs you can remember from your childhood? If you can recall the words, it time to start singing or praying, whichever suits you. Maybe the collective energy of the group will give us all a rain break and get us out to play golf!