

DIRECTOR'S COLUMN

Dave Groelle, CGCS, Royal Melbourne Country Club



Gone Fishing

It's a phrase we're all familiar with and have probably used a time or two. When was the last time you actually went? If you can't remember then it's been too long. As we enter the heart of our season I want to take a moment to remind everyone to find some time for themselves or their family at some point. It is a long season and it is over before you know it. Take advantage of what could be a great way to spend time with family or friends. Go Fish!

Many of our courses have water features that offer some great opportunities for angling. If you have kids it is a great way to spend some time with them. Taking a child fishing is great. There is nothing better than the smile on their faces or the excitement in their voices as they reel in their catch. It also teaches them patience (while waiting for a bite) and that golf courses are environmental havens for wildlife. What is better than going to Mom or Dad's work to fish? Well maybe ice cream afterwards, but you know what I mean. It doesn't cost much either. A Snoopy pole is \$15 and usually comes with some basic tackle. The bait you can gather almost any morning from a fairway or tee, especially after a rain. If you can't get out on your course I'm sure you know someone you could call that would be happy to let you out. So now you have a low cost opportunity to spend some time with your kids that they will really enjoy and never forget.

If your kids are older and not interested, what about fishing with some friends. Organize a trip somewhere. I'm guessing it wouldn't be too hard to get a group together to go somewhere peaceful, often times scenic, hang out, fish, and imbibe. Often times there's not much catching, but it makes for some great times creating and building friendships. The memories created will be talked about year after year, and did I mention the food? It's funny how all we need is an excuse to get together and have fun. All it takes is someone to set it up.

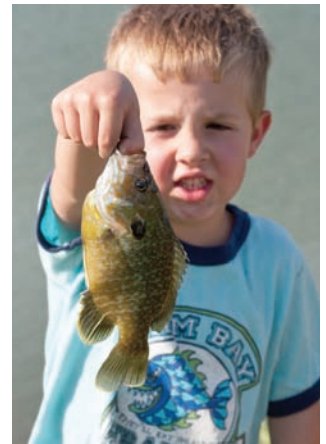
So in closing I encourage you to find the time. Find the time to hang out with your kids. Find the time to get together with friends. Maybe it's not fishing. Whatever it is, just do it. The summer is a grind, and at some point we all need a break and a reminder of what it is we work so hard for. Don't let it pass you by. I think I got a bite... **-OC**



Savannah and Larry Flament show off their catch.



Dave's Groelle's son Chase on a recent fishing expedition.



Dylan sporting the fishing shirt with his catch of the day.

Photo Credit: Brooke Groelle