



“THE BIRDIE” April 2010

Brae Burn website, calendar and online Birdies: <http://brae-burn.org>

UPCOMING EVENTS		
Apr 21st (Wed.)	Sales Tax Information Meeting Board Meeting *Note change in day of the week!	6:30 pm 7:00 pm
22nd (Thurs.)	First Twilight Golf (held every Thursday) Sign up April 20 at the Club House	5:45 pm (p. 4)
24th (Sat.)	Brae Burn Crab Feed & Auction *See flyer	6:30 pm (p. 5 & flyer)
25th (Sun.)	Garden Club: Bellevue Botanical Garden	2:00 pm (p. 5)
May 6th (Thurs.)	Garden Club: Herb Extravaganza at TOS	7:00 pm (p. 6)
May 15th (Sat.)	Brae Burn Tea/Fashion Show *Save the Date!	TBD (watch for info)
May 27th (Thurs.)	Garden Club: Bloedel Reserve Tour (Bainbridge Island)	9:15 am (p. 6)

Board News

Note: All Board meetings are open to Members. Meetings are held the **third Wednesday** of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Clubhouse. **Next meeting is Wednesday April 21**. Contact a Board member if you want to present an idea to the Board or have an item to add to the agenda.

Meeting location: Brae Burn Clubhouse, 2409 182nd Ave N.E., Redmond WA 98052

Minutes of the March 17, 2010 Brae Burn Board Meeting Submitted by Liz Duncan, Secretary.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance:

President	Nancy Laswell	Vice President	Luke Stambaugh
Treasurer	Ajay Kalhan	Secretary	Liz Duncan
Maintenance Trustee	Kevin Reid	Social Trustee	Susie Adams
Associate Rep	Absent		
Golf Trustee	Absent		
Golf Superintendent	Josh Soden		

Other Brae Burn Members in Attendance: Bill Disney, Rich Detering, Carol Helland and Pat Holman.

Communications to the Board: Written and Oral: Comments from community members are also included under unfinished business and corrections to the minutes.

- Bill Disney, last year’s Maintenance Chair, clarified the situation regarding the pool drain. The County chose not to enforce the pool drain requirement last year. The Brae Burn pool has been evaluated by the

county. Pool Pro is under contract to perform the necessary work to comply with the County requirements and will obtain the necessary permits. Work is scheduled for the Spring. A down payment was made last year and the balance due is carried as a 2010 project in the budget.

- Bill indicated that our signage in the pool area is not up to current codes and will need to be replaced.
- Bill gave the original of Josh's 2009 performance evaluation to the Board.

Course Superintendent Report: Deferred to April.

Trustee Reports: Deferred to next month

Maintenance: The gate to the pool has been repaired.

Superintendent Report: Deferred to next month.

Approval of the minutes for the February 16, 2010 Brae Burn Board Meeting: The minutes need to be corrected to reflect that the Board approved the minutes of the January 19, 2010 meeting, not the 2009 meeting. Bill Disney clarified a section of the maintenance report. Brae Burn was not allowed a deferment on the pool drain. Instead, the County opted to not enforce the requirement last year. The minutes were approved as amended.

Unfinished Business:

- Brae Burn Human Resources Manual: Concern was expressed over some of the language in the manual. Nancy and Liz will meet with Carol Helland and report findings at a future meeting. Kathy Heinemann, who gave input on the manual, will not return to Brae Burn until May.
- Arborists Report and Action on Trees: Bill Disney, last year's Maintenance Chair, summarized the issue with the trees on the sixth hole. A tree permit is good for 60 days and costs \$51.50. The two diseased trees that need to come down would not count against the number of trees that can be cut down and they would be cut in such a way as to retain natural habitat characteristics. There had been a recommendation from the Greens Committee to also cut down the tree next to the sand trap by the 6th green and 7th tee because the tree prevents a clear line of sight (a "best practice" on 3 par holes) from the 7th tee box to the 7th green. The Board postponed a decision on the live tree until after Board Members had had a chance to look at the tree in question and until bids had been obtained. Josh was requested to obtain bids for the two diseased trees and also to obtain additional bids on the live tree. Discussion was held regarding moving or reducing the size of the 6th tee box or just leaving the tree as is because we are not a "regulation" course with regulation handicaps.
- Ad Hoc Audit Committee Status Update (negotiations):
 - The Ad Hoc Committee spent considerable time reviewing Brae Burn's financial statements and the rules the community is and will be required to comply with regarding payment of sales tax and possibly B & O tax.
 - The committee came to the conclusion that the best way to determine the tax is to declare that about 50% the Brae Burn golf course-related expenditures in the budget is directly used for course maintenance. The other 50% of the golf-course related expenditures were attributed to aesthetics and drainage related to protection of private property surrounding the course That would be the basis to determine the sales tax. We can not use the number of rounds because we can not document the number of rounds. In addition, the value of a Brae Burn round would be compared to predetermined higher priced 18 hole courses in our area.
 - The committee met with the auditor. The auditor was willing to agree to the 50% figure as a basis for the tax, plus interest and penalties, but cautioned that if we are audited again, future auditors may challenge the 50% basis.
 - The bill to Brae Burn came to \$26,452 for the years 2006-2009.
 - Quarterly payments, based 50% of the golf course related expenditures, will need to be made starting this April.
 - B & O Tax is also applicable to Brae Burn, but right now is offset by a credit.

- The committee will help the Treasurer get set up to pay the quarterly payments. Documents have been created by the committee to show the paper trail of how the figures were derived.
- If we defer paying we are subject to 3% interest.

MOTION: A motion was made by Luke and seconded by Ajay “to thank the Ad Hoc Committee for all their hard work and perseverance in addressing the sales tax issue for insuring the community will have the lowest impact possible.” The motion passed.

- Ad Hoc Audit Committee Status Update (options for payment). Due to the fact that the bill has to be paid and the fact that interest will continue to be charged, a motion was made to pay the bill now.
 - A recap of the events leading up to the payment of the tax and a survey regarding options to replace the \$26,452 and upcoming ongoing tax payments will be created and distributed to the community. Liz Duncan has organized this – see page 7.
 - A committee consisting of Ajay Kalhan, Josh Soden, and Luke Stambaugh was appointed to look at our current budget and long term forecast to see if anything can be cut or shifted to lessen the impact. Susie Wright and Steve Clark will be asked to join them.
 - An informational meeting for the community regarding options will be held just prior to the next Board meeting on April 21 from 6:30-7:00.

MOTION: A motion was made by Susie Adams and seconded by Ajay “authorizing payment of the tax bill of \$26,452 out of funds on hand.” The motion passed.

- Volunteer Appointments:

MOTION: A motion was made “to appoint Gail Rice as Birdie editor; Larry Pitts and Sam Fisch as Clubhouse Chairs; Lisa Collier as Junior Golf Chair; Carol Helland, Liz Duncan and Nancy Laswell were appointed to a HR Manual Review Committee. Ajay Kalhan, Josh Soden and Luke Stambaugh were appointed to a 2010 Budget and Long Range Forecast Review Committee.” The motion was seconded and passed.

- Roster Update: Pat Holman reported that the Roster is ready to be printed.
- Calendar of Events Update: Deferred
- Budget Update: Deferred
- Board Unfinished 2009 Business:
 - Website: Pat Holman described what the updated web site will be like. It will include a site that is open to the public and a sub site that will be for Board use and will require a password. How that would be used has not been determined. Pat is also working on creating one master Brae Burn email list that could be filtered for various purposes such as the Birdie or Official Notices.
 - Greens Committee: Pat presented the Board with copies of the proposed Greens Committee Charter. Josh indicated that he thought the presented document had been updated and that Bill Disney had the latest proposed charter and also the most recent “Set of Standards.” Kevin will work with Bill, Josh and the Greens Committee to locate and review the most recent documents. Once located and refined the “Charter” and “Set of Standards” will be presented to the Board for approval.

(Meetings minutes continued on next page)

New Business:

- Grants
 - Carol Helland presented an opportunity for Brae Burn to apply for a grant to work with Earth Corps (a 501-C-3 organization) to create a tree inventory and succession planting plan for Brae Burn. The advantage to having a plan would be to maximize our plantings to benefit the community. An example is that trees can lessen drainage problems.
 - The plan would include an inventory of our existing trees and could identify invasive plants such as blackberries, ivy, holly, butterfly bush that should be replaced with native plantings.
 - Once a plan was in place, parts could be tackled each year through volunteer work parties.
 - Luke Stambaugh, Carol Helland, and Rich Detering will look into the possibility of writing the grant Carol proposed. It is due in April.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10

Golf News



Twilight Social Golf – Starts **Thursday, April 22nd.**

Sign up for Twilight Golf at the clubhouse on April 20.

Save the dates: Every Thursday evening during golf season.

Twilight basics: It is a "shotgun start" for golf at 5:45 pm (April-May) followed by bring-your-own dinner/beverages at the Clubhouse (kitchen and gas BBQs available). Sign up at the Clubhouse bulletin board starting on the Tuesday prior and pick a starting hole for your 9-hole round. Cost is \$2.00 per golfer (covers prizes). Singles and guests welcome. There's also an optional raffle each night that's \$1 to enter (winner gets all the cash). You or your guests can also come just for dinner.



Mark your calendars for the Twilight start times:

April/May 5:45 • June/July 6:00 • August 5:45 • Sept 5:30

2010 Partners Away Golf Tournament

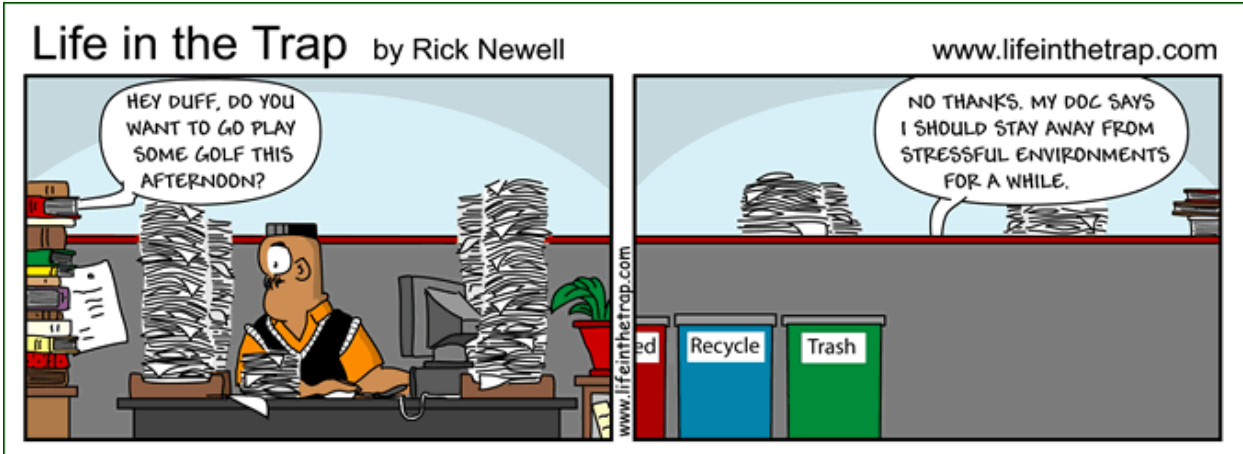
Save the Date: Saturday, July 10, 2010 – 1st tee time is 9:30 am

Location: Lake Wilderness Golf Course -- 25400 Witte Road SE, Maple Valley, WA 98038

Price: \$60 – includes green fee, cart, after-play buffet lunch, and prizes

Details: Guests are welcome. Additional information and sign-up will follow at a later date.

Hosts: Mike Austin & Clint Ferrell are the 2010 hosts. Feel free to contact them if you have questions or would like more info.



Social News

Brae Burn Easter Egg Hunt was held Saturday, April 3. Please share any photos and we'll share them in the May issue of *The Birdie*!

Crab Feed and Auction – is **Saturday, April 24th**. See the attached flyer for details and be sure to **RSVP by April 20th** or earlier to ensure there's a good head count so enough crab can be purchased! Please make checks out to Susie Adams.

Thank you to all Brae Burn Members who donated food for the Scouting for Food Drive on Saturday, March 20th.

Webelos Scouts Wil Helland and Robert Neuman collected 140 items to donate to the Hope Link Food Bank. Their pack # 561 collected a total of 2180 items and were the top pack for total items collected.

The Redmond food bank temporarily ran out of space to store food that Saturday!

Thanks again for your generosity!

Garden Club News -- I hope you are enjoying all of the beautiful blooms coming up! We have three more events this year: please join us. Garden Club is for all Brae Burn neighbors and friends who are interested in gardening, enjoy touring gardens, listening to presentations by Master Gardeners, or participating in garden related events. You are welcome to come to any meeting or event and also to join as a member.

Kindly address your questions about any of these events to Caroline Clark, Garden Club President. (425) 445-2031 or railcone@earthlink.net

Please RSVP for any or all of the events to Mary Knight at (425) 747-2214

On Sunday, April 25 at 2 pm we will have a docent led tour of the [Bellevue Botanical Garden](#). We will tour all areas of the garden including the Alpine Rock Garden, the Waterwise Garden, the Native Discovery Garden and the Yao Garden. Following the tour is a viewing of the Chinese Floral Art Exhibition in the Visitors Center. The attending teachers will explain the arrangements and answer your questions. Meet in TOS Parking lot at 1:30 if you wish to carpool. (Let Mary Knight know your driving plans when you rsvp.) The garden is located at 12001 Main Street, Bellevue, WA 98005.

The Herb Extravaganza is Thursday, May 6, 2010, 7:00 pm at the TOS Clubhouse in the Fireside Room. There will be delicious herb infused food and cocktails. You are welcome to bring your husbands and friends. This event is always fun. Cost \$17.00 per person (no host cocktails). Make checks payable to Garden Club – drop them off at Caroline Clark's house (Lot 94). Your check holds your reservation, so RSVP early. Checks are accepted no later than April 29.

Our last Tour will be of **The Bloedel Reserve** on Bainbridge Island, Thursday, May 27. We will have a docent led tour of the Japanese Garden, The Moss Garden, the Reflection Garden, the Bird Refuge, the Waterfall Look, and the Glen. The Bloedel Reserve is an incredible place of natural beauty and tranquility. It has received several national and international awards.

The ferry leaves at 10:40 am. Lunch is at 11:30 in the New Rose Cafe in Bainbridge Gardens Greenhouse. The tour is at 1:30. We will meet in Brae Burn parking to carpool at 9:15 am. The reserve is located on 7571 NE Dolphin Drive, Bainbridge Island, WA 98110. Please visit their website at <http://www.bloedelreserve.org/> The New Rose Cafe is located at 9415 Miller RD. NE. Bainbridge Island, WA 98110. Visit their website at bainbridgegardens.com.

Have any news, tips, photos or announcements that would be of interest to the community?
Contact Gail (grice@2inabox.com) for inclusion in an upcoming Birdie by the **Last Day of the month.**

Update on Sales Tax Audit Notice and Request for Community Feedback

At the March 2010 Board meeting the Brae Burn Board voted to pay, from current funds on hand, the sales tax that was due from 2006-2009 including penalties and interest. The total bill came to \$26,452. Further delay would have resulted in additional interest being added to the bill. In addition, from this point on, Brae Burn will be required to pay quarterly sales tax and possibly B & O tax. The community owes a big THANK YOU to the members of the community who devoted time to addressing this issue on our behalf.

The Board would like to collect feedback from the community (via a survey) regarding our current financial situation and actions, if any, that should be taken. In addition, an informational meeting will be held from 6:30-7:00 just prior to the next Board meeting on Wednesday April 21.

The survey was not complete at the time the Birdie was ready for publication. It will soon be sent electronically to those who receive electronic communications. A hard copy will be put in the neighborhood Birdie boxes. For those Associates who only get a hard copy of the Birdie, the survey will be posted at the Brae Burn website by April 10. If you cannot access the Website please contact Liz Duncan. <http://brae-burn.org/> And you are always welcome to attend the above mentioned informational meeting.

(Note: For more in depth information please review your Birdies from December 2009-April 2010. These past issues can also be found at the Website.)

November 2009: The Board was notified that a Sales Tax Audit Notice was received from the State of Washington Department of Revenue. It was confirmed that Brae Burn would most likely have to pay the tax on previous and present costs to maintain the golf course or on actual rounds played. Tam O'Shanter had recently been audited for the same issue, had fought the ruling and had lost. They shared legal information they had received from their attorney. At the Brae Burn General Meeting, the Board notified the community that the Audit Notice had been received, summarized the information that had been gathered to date and indicated that the Board had formed a committee to address the issue

December 2009: An article in the Birdie entitled "A Message from the Board President" reviewed in depth the issues around the audit. The committee started collecting information relevant to the tax bill. Dates/times of committee meetings were posted on the Community Calendar and meetings were open to the community. A second focus of the Committee was to develop procedures to capture information to facilitate future tax calculations.

January 2010: A summary sheet regarding the audit was distributed to the community and published in the Birdie. The Committee met with the auditors. Brae Burn is a business. Brae Burn takes in money to supply a service. Clubhouse and pool costs are exempt, but the golf course isn't. Tam O'Shanter fought the ruling and lost. The Committee began to research information that would be necessary to calculate the tax.

February 2010: The committee gathered data for the auditor, made a presentation of its findings and recommendations to the Board and requested the "go ahead" to release the gathered financial information to the auditor. Because there is no way to document "rounds of golf", costs associated with the golf course would need to provide the basis for the tax.

March 2010 Board Meeting: (Minutes to be published in the April Birdie) The committee presented the results of the meeting with the auditor. The Board approved making the tax payment so as not to incur further interest charges.

LIVE

APRIL 24, 2010

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YES its time again! THE ANNUAL CRAB FEED!!!

(BYOB : WE SUPPLY ICE + WINE.) AND YES, there will be the silent auction, and after dinner. LIVE Auction. (Special items.)

6³⁰ 7³⁰ cocktails + silent auction

7³⁰ Dinner: (auction closes) Crab, salad, Bread, Dessert, Wine

The Cost: \$15.00 per person, PLUS a nice item per couple to auction off...

Return to Susie Adams : 885-6007 by April 20th thanks :)

NAMES: _____

of people _____

Amount enclosed :
\$ _____



Brae Burn
2409 182nd Ave NE
Redmond WA 98052



**Brae Burn Golf and Country Club
April 2010**

- Did you make a New Year's resolution to "go green" or be more environmentally friendly?
- Do you want to save Brae Burn \$\$\$ and help keep costs down?
- Do you want to get your Birdie **immediately** when it becomes available?

Switching from the paper version to electronic version of the Birdie will help save paper—aka trees, allow you to see photos in color, cut back on printing costs (which helps save the membership money), and gets you access to information and updates right away instead of waiting for print and delivery time!

If you'd like to make the switch to the electronic Birdie, simply let Gail Rice, Birdie editor, know your email address and that you're making the change! You can email her at grice@2inabox.com.
THANKS!