Despite preparing EnJoie Golf Club in Endicott, N.Y., for two BC Opens and TPC of Michigan for two Senior Players Championships, Mike Giuffre said, "You're never a veteran. There's always something that comes up that's unique and different." 1983 graduate of Penn State's two-year turfgrass management program, Giuffre worked at Grand Traverse Resort in Traverse City, Mich., EnJoie, and Princess Anne CC in Virginia Beach, Va., before returning to Michigan during construction of TPC of Michigan. It opened its doors in 1990 and hosted its first Senior Players Championship in 1991.

Giuffre says something is always unique about TV but from a spectator's standpoint. We start mowing the greens at night and single-cut in the morning during the tournament. Mother Nature should be on our side. It's nice for the spectators and for the players because it's normally cooler. And it's nice for the course because it's peak golf season condition wise — a less stressful time for the turf. Graves pointed to the appropriateness of his course hosting the PGA Championship. In the 1950s it was the nation's only exclusively women's golf club: Amelia Earhart used to land her airplane on the course, launch there and take off. In the 1940s it changed its name and accepted male members. Graves earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Delaware in 1979 and a turfgrass management degree from Penn State in 1981. The Lewis, Del., native worked at Wilmington (Del.) CC from 1978-81, Baltimore CC from 1981-85 and Renewed Golf and CC in Bethesda from 1985-89 before coming to Bethesda CC.

Things to look for: Orchestrated by architect Art Hills, Bethesda has "completely excavated and rebuilt" eight greens and their surrounds, Graves said. Reconstruction began last July 6, and the greens were unveiled and opened May 1. Hills added his touch to the greens' contours, approaches and "surrounds," and added new bunkering. Graves said whiter and more consistent sand was also put in place. "Bunkers are very important and, in most cases, the most neglected part of any golf course," he said. "As a golfer, the bunker shot should be the most consistent in the area but a choice Graves defended because it retains winter color better than bentgrass.

Made-for-TV preparations: "We try to make it greener, so we apply iron," Graves said. "We stripe everything — fairways, roughs and immediate roughs. And we make sure the striping on the tees is aligned with the TV cameras. The stationary cameras, once fixed, are the same for the week. We do our best to make the golf course as appealing to the television audience. A 1964 graduate of Rutgers University, the signature 14th hole has undergone changes since last year. The fairway was widened in the right to provide golfers a target to the landing area from the tee. Giuffre's crews have planted $30,000 worth of trees — a dozen 30-foot spruces and a mixture of 60 to 70 smaller spruce and flowering trees.

Made-for-TV preparations:
"We use a lot of iron, starting about three weeks from the tournament, to keep everything green," Giuffre said, adding that the green speed is monitored daily, starting it at 9.5 and not exceeding 10. Crews double-cut the greens to 11/64 on the greens will be lowered, but the fairways, roughs and immediate roughs. And we make sure the striping on the tees is aligned with the TV cameras. The stationary cameras, once fixed, are the same for the week. We do our best to make the golf course as appealing to the television audience. A 1964 graduate of Rutgers University, the signature 14th hole has undergone changes since last year. The fairway was widened in the right to provide golfers a target to the landing area from the tee. Giuffre's crews have planted $30,000 worth of trees — a dozen 30-foot spruces and a mixture of 60 to 70 smaller spruce and flowering trees.

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