

## TOOLS OF THE TRADE

# McDonough battles water restrictions at Keswick Club

By DEREK RICE

KESWICK, Va. — Despite severe water restrictions mandated by Virginia's governor, Keswick Club superintendent Peter McDonough has managed to keep his course looking green.

Proclamation 33 placed water restrictions on everyone in Virginia, not just golf courses, and runs through June 30, 2003 unless, as McDonough said, "we get grand amounts of moisture."

By October, many businesses in the area had closed their public restrooms and some restaurants were using disposable plates, cups and utensils in an effort to conserve water. Signs were posted on nearly every corner reminding residents to be wary of the amount of water they used.

What would help the most, McDonough said, is a few days of steady, soaking rain.

"We've had plenty of golf days, so a little overhead irrigation isn't going to hurt anybody here," he said.

As the president of the Virginia Golf Course Superintendents Association, McDonough said he feels it is his duty to lead the way in identifying ways for superintendents to conserve water. For example, he increased the height of greens and fairways to keep

them from burning up during the hot, dry summer months.

"We did all the right things this summer that we were advocating to the Mid-Atlantic PGA, the Club Managers Association of Virginia and the Virginia State Golf Association," he said.

McDonough and the Virginia GCSA sent out notices to those other associations to help get the word out to the golf public that water restrictions were going to be necessary. Because this was just before the governor's office issued its proclamation, it enabled the VGCSA to show the state that superintendents were already taking steps to reduce water use.

"We were able to say, 'Look, we've been in voluntary compliance on restrictions and water cutbacks before the order,'" McDonough said. "That really helped us in getting some exemptions, which were only given in the first 48 hours after the order. So if you didn't get your exemptions in the first two days, it wasn't going to happen."

Moving forward, McDonough said he hopes to follow the example of superintendents associations in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, who have worked with their respective states in shaping water-use guidelines (see story

on page 1).

"Our long-term goal is to follow their example," McDonough said. "I've seen their water-monitoring agreements with their respective states, and I've submitted those into the drought coordinator's office to say, 'We can partner with this so everybody is on the same page because we're definitely going to be good stewards of the land.' We're going to hammer out what it's going to take to make everyone live within the range they have to live within."

### RENOVATION CALLS

The Arnold Palmer Signature course at Keswick Club does about 15,000 rounds a year through its membership as well as guests at the upscale Keswick Hall at Monticello next door. However, a renovation project coupled with home sales on and around the course should drive that number steadily higher in coming years, McDonough said.

"Lengthening this course is something I've wanted to do for some time, so I'm excited to be able to get into it," he said. The renovation will add about 400 yards to the layout.

At press time, renovation work was slated to start on Nov. 18, but McDonough expected some permitting delays. McDonough expects the course to open next spring for a while before shutting down for regrassing in the summer.



Peter McDonough

## MCDONOUGH'S TOOLS

### GREENS MOWERS:

10 Toro Greensmaster 1000

### TEE MOWERS:

3 Toro Greensmaster 2100

### FAIRWAY MOWERS:

2 Toro Reelmaster 6500-D

### ROUGH MOWERS:

1 Toro Groundmaster 5800, 3 Toro Reelmaster 3100, 3 Toro Groundmaster 322

### IRRIGATION SYSTEM:

Rainbird Nimbus

### GOLF CAR FLEET:

Club Car electric

### FLAGSTICKS:

Standard

### COMPUTER & ACCESSORIES:

Dell

### PRIMARY HERBICIDE:

Ronstar



The 18th hole at Keswick Club in Keswick, Va.

### RIDING BUNKER RAKE:

3 Toro Sand Pro 3020

### TURF UTILITY VEHICLES:

6 Toro 3200, 4 Toro 2100, 4 Club Car

### VERTI-CUT REELS:

Toro

### AERIFIERS:

3 Toro Greens aerator

### TOPDRESSERS:

1 Toro 1800

### REEL GRINDER:

1 Express Dual

### BEDKNIFE GRINDER:

1 Express Dual

### IRRIGATION PUMP STATION:

Syncroflo, 1,350 gpm

### PRIMARY INSECTICIDE:

Mach 2

### PRIMARY FUNGICIDE:

Heritage

### PRIMARY SLOW-RELEASE FERTILIZER:

Lebanon Country Club

### CANNOT LIVE WITHOUT:

After this summer, it's definitely water!

### TOTAL SQUARE FOOTAGE OF MAINTENANCE BUILDING:

10,000 sq. ft.

### ANNUAL ROUNDS OF GOLF:

15,000

### NORMAL GREEN SPEED:

10' - 10.5'

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Jennifer Eclipse  
PARS International Corp.  
at (212) 221-9595 ext. 237  
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