

Turfgrass Matters



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Mid-Atlantic Golf Course Superintendents Newsletter

Wayne Brissey to host June 11 meeting at Reston Golf Course

Reston Golf Course will be the site of the MAAGCS June meeting. The Ed Ault course, which opened in 1969, serves the planned community as a public course.

There's a smile and a trace of skepticism in the voice of superintendent Wayne Brissey when he tells you, "The scuttlebut around here is that Hugh Hefner had something to do with the course." The reason for this rumor? When you look at the course from above, the layout resembles the head of a Playboy bunny.

What is a certainty, however, is that Reston is an 18-hole, par 71, public course that gets 55- to 60,000 rounds a year. "We're a racetrack," says Wayne. "Most think the course is beautifully laid out and, for a facility that gets so much play, in wonderful condition—we're blessed with hearty grass."

To help facilitate play on the busy course, notes Wayne, they recently instituted a slow play policy. If players do not turn nine holes in two hours fifteen minutes, they're given a twilight fee and asked to return after 6 p.m. "This has had very of favorable response. A lot of people are starting to come back and play here. We don't want to deter people from playing, we just want them to have a comfortable, good time and not be upset about slow play."

Greens at Reston are bentgrass and poa, tees are bent rye and poa, while fairways are rye and poa. Wayne says that mowing and fertilizing are not on an absolutely strict schedule. "I wait to see what

Mother Nature is going to do to me." The greens are about 3/16," "but we vary the height of cut according to conditions. If it's hot or dry, we raise our height to take the grass out of stress." Fairways are mowed at 5/8" and the rough at 1-3/8". "It doesn't sound all that tall, but it's demanding."

The irrigation system on five holes at Reston has recently been upgraded. "We redid the configuration of the five holes so that individual control heads that used to have two control boxes, now have four." This provides a much improved distribution of the waterflow. "We are progressively upgrading the entire irrigation system."

Wayne, a native of Ohio, originally thought he wanted a career in banking and finance. "I bagged that; I decided I didn't want to be inside in a suit. I started working for the Department of Natural Resources in Ohio at Houston Woods Golf Course. I was there for 10 years as an assistant." Wayne retired from this position, took the money and went back to college at Penn State for his turfgrass certificate. After completion of his two years, he worked at TPC of Avenel for a year during the construction phase. Wayne then became superintendent at Chesapeake Hills in Lusby, Md., where he worked for three years. From his



Wayne Brissey

position as an assistant at Indian Spring Golf Club, Wayne moved to Reston a year and a half ago.

His leisure activities now center around his family. He and his wife Deb, supervisor of a computer group at GE, enjoy working on the house they purchased last year. When they can take time, they particularly like showing two-year-old Eric the wonders of Washington—the parks, museums and activities. "It's such a diverse area, on my days off we try to plan around events going on in the city." Yes, he does play golf, "but no low scores, I just have fun."

And fun is what Wayne wants all of you to have. To prove it, he proposes a small scavenger hunt. Once, to show what he thinks of stimping greens, he claims, he spray-painted his meter white and made it one of the OB markers. He wants to see if you can spot it. No prize, though.

GOLF: Limited tee times:
11a.m. to 1 p.m. To reserve call
703-620-9333.

THE MEETING will be at the Sheraton just past the course, 11810 Sunrise Valley Drive. Cocktails are at 6 p.m., dinner at 7. Cost is \$25, cash bar. Dress is casual—golf attire.
Reservations: 301-381-0030

DIRECTIONS: Take 495 to the Dulles Access Toll Rd. Have 75 cents ready. Go to Exit 3, Reston Ave. South on Reston Ave. to the first intersection, Sunrise Valley Drive, go left. After the first light, entrance to the course is on the right. The Sheraton is past the golf course.