

Turfgrass Matters



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Mid-Atlantic Golf Course Superintendents Newsletter

Ben Stagg to host Superintendent-Pro Tourney at Hog Neck on May 14

Hog Neck Golf Course on Maryland's Eastern Shore is the site for the annual MAAGCS Superintendent-Pro Tournament.

"The first reaction anyone has to Hog Neck Golf Course is 'how can anything with such an ugly name be so beautiful?'" This question—quoted from the newspaper supplement celebrating the opening of the championship public course, July 17, 1976—is probably still being asked.

The property for the course was donated to Talbot County by Mrs. W. Alton Jones who owned Hog Neck farm. Her husband, Chairman of the Board of Cities Service Oil, had been an avid golfer and had played all over the world with the likes of Bobby Jones. Mrs. Jones, who had purchased the farm as a retreat from New York City, loved this area and wanted to provide a place where everyone could play golf for a reasonable fee. Says Ben, "We try to keep the fees in line with what will pay the bills plus provide enough capital income to replace and improve."

The course, designed by

Lindsay Ervin and built by Greenhorne and O'Mara, boasts 115 sand traps and 16 acres of ponds. As that newspaper noted, "Ervin wanted the relationship of the traps to the water to have a special meaning for the Eastern Shore, to reflect the interest here in the Chesapeake Bay and beaches."

May will be a busy month for Ben and his crew of eight. Ten days prior to the Superintendent-Pro tourney, Hog Neck will host—as it does every year—the regional qualifying round for the NCAA Class III. There will be 14 or 15 teams qualifying for their final round. "I enjoy that," says Ben, "because you see a bunch of young kids who really know how to play golf."

Ben has been superintendent at Hog Neck since its opening. Prior to that he was at Nassawango in Snow Hill, Maryland, and before that at the Ocean City Yacht and Country Club.

When not on the course—working or playing—Ben enjoys fishing and hunting. "My spiritual life," says Ben, "is also very important to me." He and his wife


Hilda are active in Trinity Cathedral Episcopal Church in Easton and Ben participates in the prayer breakfasts at National. This year the breakfast was a bit incongruous, however. Held in the Riviera Hotel in Las Vegas, the 400 or so participants could hear the slot machines banging away on the other side of the wall.

Ben and Hilda have four grown children and three grandsons. Hilda, retired financial officer for welfare services, has started a second career. She now works three days a week for the hospice organization in Caroline County. She finds the work as rewarding as anything she has ever done.

Ben and Hog Neck Pro Mark Herrmann look forward to competing with you in this annual event.

Directions: From the north—take Route 50. Left on Rabbit Hill Road for about a mile to Old Cordova Road. Proceed for about a mile and a half to the entrance on the left. From Easton and the south—take Route 50 to Route 309 to Cordova Rd.

For those attending the dinner but not playing in the tournament, dinner, raw bar and open bar will be \$35.

|  OLD CORDOVA ROAD EASTON, MD 21601 PHONE: 822-6079 | DISTANCES IN METERS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | TOT | | |
|--|---------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | OUT | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | | 18 | IN |
| GOLD TEES | 345 | 362 | 164 | 460 | 358 | 370 | 163 | 383 | 499 | 3104 | 364 | 332 | 433 | 199 | 552 | 399 | 401 | 183 | 478 | 3341 | 6445 |
| BLUE TEES | 321 | 334 | 24 | 332 | 224 | 263 | 24 | 354 | 472 | 2824 | 335 | 303 | 407 | 176 | 524 | 377 | 373 | 153 | 451 | 3257 | 5922 |
| WHITE TEES | 290 | 304 | 128 | 401 | 300 | 317 | 91 | 323 | 441 | 2595 | 305 | 275 | 374 | 142 | 494 | 341 | 343 | 144 | 420 | 2838 | 5433 |
| RED TEES | 266 | 282 | 105 | 378 | 272 | 294 | 71 | 300 | 386 | 2354 | 281 | 252 | 349 | 118 | 464 | 316 | 320 | 120 | 394 | 2614 | 4968 |
| PARS | 4 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 36 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 36 | 72 |