

# Turfgrass Matters



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Mid-Atlantic Golf Course Superintendents Newsletter

## Dave Rudinski to Host December 8 Meeting at Rolling Road

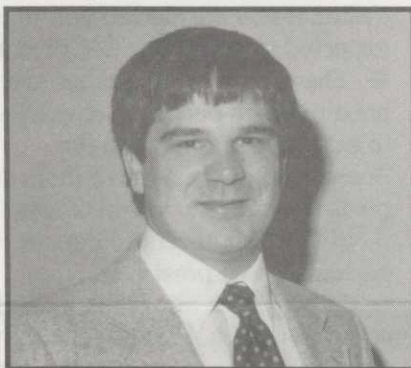
December's meeting, the final meeting of the year, will be held at Rolling Road Golf Club in Catonsville.

It is interesting that Dave Rudinski, one of the younger superintendents, works at one of the older courses in the association. Dave began there this May; the course opened in 1918.

The course's 90 acres was originally part of Charles Carroll's estate; he presented it to his daughter when she married Charles Caton. In the late 1800s the property became part of "Farmlands," purchased by the Lurmans. In 1881 Gustav Lurman built a stone clubhouse and called the property Blumsbury Farms. In 1916 Catonsville Country Club bought the property. During the next year, the members themselves built the first nine holes. By 1918 they were playing golf, driving to the course by horse and carriage. In 1922 the members decided to enlarge the course to 18 holes. The design was accomplished by Willie Park, Jr., one of the most respected architects in the history of golf. In 1959, the members purchased club.

David grew up in the business. As most of you know, his father, Lou, has been superintendent at Eisenhower for 15 years and long active in the MAAGCS. When asked if he ever worked for his father, Dave said, "Almost. I was a cart boy at Eisenhower." Dave then worked at Lake Arbor CC before entering the I.A.A. at

UM. While still in school he began work at Woodmont as an assistant to Mike Larsen. When he graduated in 1988 he was made assistant in charge of the south course.



Dave says his father's advice has been invaluable, and that he has called on many other superintendents as well, all of whom have been extremely helpful.

Major projects on Rolling Road's course have been kept to a minimum recently. A couple of years ago the clubhouse burned, so this spring they moved into their new \$4-5 million facility. If that weren't enough, they had to rebuild their swimming pool. "There went the rest of my capital for a while," said Dave. They have, however, just finished enlarging #8 tee.

Dave has had one surprise, however: a leak in an underground gas tank. They've had to drill wells and test the water. "They don't quite train you for that. I called on everyone for advice." The crew has been just great, says Dave. "I couldn't have gotten anywhere this year without

my assistant Jeff Bodick and mechanic Ron Stromberg."

Rolling Road fairways and tees are ryegrass; fairways are mowed at 5/8" and tees at 1/2". Greens are mostly poa cut at 5/32". "I'm trying to get bent into them, but it's a slow process—we're not going to kill them off and start over."

Dave's favorite pastime is hunting. He hunts deer with a bow, and when season begins, with guns. He also hunts Canada and snow geese. For the latter, he belongs to a hunt club on the Eastern Shore. He's never gotten a deer with a bow, but last year he killed one with a muzzle loader. When goose season opens, he has a hard time deciding whether to bow hunt or goose hunt.

With the hours he works and his concentration on hunting, it's no wonder Dave's golf score hovers around 100 or that he's single.

Do come out to enjoy this historic course and a delicious dinner in great new clubhouse. **Dinner:** Cash bar at 6:00; hors d'oeuvres at 6:30; dinner at 7:00. **Dress:** formal. Reservations a must by Fri. Dec. 4:301-490-6202. **Meeting:** Annual election. **Directions:** From D.C.: Take 95N to 695W (exit 49 B, a left exit). Go 1 mile to Wilkens Ave.W (exit 12 C). \*\*Go 1 mile, right on Hilltop Rd. At top of hill, left into club. From Baltimore: Exit 12 C (Wilkins Ave.) from 695. Follow above directions from \*\*.