

Turfgrass Matters



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Mid-Atlantic Golf Course Superintendents Newsletter

July 13 Meeting to be at Washington GCC

Lee Dieter to host individual tourney

Lee Dieter will host the July MAAGCS meeting at Washington Golf and Country Club, the oldest existing golf club in Virginia and the metropolitan Washington area. In fact, the club is currently planning its centennial—1994 marks the 100th anniversary of the Arlington, Virginia course. The club has been at the Glebe Road site since 1908 where it moved from leased property on the Arlington Heights (Fort Meyer).

WGCC's proud heritage includes having presidents Taft, Wilson, Harding and Coolidge as members. George Bush played tennis there, but not golf.

Lee has been WGCC's superintendent since 1961 and since that time has hosted a number of MAAGCS meetings, including the first Superintendent-Professional Tournament in 1973. Lee and Clare Emery, the well-known Mid-Atlantic professional, enjoyed a great working and personal relationship. When Clare died in 1981 the club, Lee, and MAAGCS members donated the trophy for which we played until this year.

The course—5835 yards, 125 slope (white tees)—has had the input of various architects: Donald Ross, 1908; Toomey and Flynn, 1918; Fred Findlay, 1957; Al Jamison, 1965; Algie Pulley, 1976; Ault-Clark, 1987. The club is currently working on implementing a master plan by Craig

Schreiner ASGCA. The renovations to date include the redesign of the first, fifth and eighth greens and the reworking of all bunkers. Grass basins with drains have been added to a number of holes



and the third and eleventh tees have been rebuilt. Work on the bunkers was just finished in mid-June and the sod is not completely grown in. Ponko Construction Co. did the recent renovations.

During the past 20 years, the course fairways and intermediate rough have been overseeded with the best perennial ryegrass varieties. They have been on a preventive fungicide program and have been played to summer rules the past five golfing seasons. The fairways are being mowed at 5/8" and the rough at 2 1/2". The bent-poa greens are mowed daily to maintain a speed of 8 1/2', approximately 9/64". The rye tees and aprons are on the same program as the fairways. The bent-poa tees are mowed at 5/16" and treated the same as the greens except they are mowed every other day. Crabgrass control this year is Dimension on everything except the rough which was

treated with pendimethalin. Turf growth regulators have been applied to the fairways, Scotts TGR on all fairways but 10,12,13, and 15 which were treated with Primo. The fairways have been treated with Prograss five of the past six years. The fairways have a large percentage of Bermuda grass, which seems to be moving this season. The TGRs have slowed down the ryegrass so much that there is less competition for the warm season grasses.

As for aesthetics, WGCC is sporting a number of new perennial beds designed by Bob Mortensen, a landscape architect and member of the green committee, and to care for the

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Golf: The club can accommodate only 60 golfers, so for this month it's MAAGCS members only on a first-come basis. Tee times essential. Call the club at 703-524-4600 and ask for the pro shop.

Dinner: Cocktails at 7:00, dinner at 8:00; \$30. Coat and tie required. Reservations must be made by **July 9: 301-490-6202.**

Directions: From Maryland via the Legion Bridge: take 495 to Exit 12A (Dulles Access Rd.) and follow signs to I-66 East. Take I-66 to Glebe Rd. Go north on Glebe about 2.5 miles to the club. There is parking on both sides of Glebe and on the west side of the tennis buildings on Old Dominion Drive. From the other direction on the Beltway: Take 495 to I-66 East and follow above directions.

Fig. 3

TOP FIVE ARCHITECTS		
ARCHITECT	NUMBER OF COURSES BUILT	
EDWARD B. AULT	31	
RUSSELL ROBERTS	8	
CHARLES HOOK	5	
LINDSAY ERVIN	5	
DONALD J. ROSS	4	
ALL OTHERS	90	
TOTAL	143	

tions, many more golf courses need to be built. Before 1950 the demand was for private courses, and 78% of Maryland's courses were private. Through the 1960s and 1970s demand was about

equal for private and public facilities; however, since the 1980s demand has switched to the point that 67% of all new courses are public. The NGF feels this trend will continue. National studies of

1992 indicated that 81% of the golf courses opened as public facilities. Nine of the state's 14 courses constructed in the 1990s are open to the public. If this is any sign, then Maryland is trying to meet this future demand. It is to be hoped that this trend will continue through the remainder of the 1990s and beyond.

NOTES

1. Cornish, Geoffrey S.; Whitten, Ronald E. 1981. *The Golf Course*. The Rutledge Press, N.Y.
2. Beard, James B. 1982. *Turf Management for the Golf Course*. Macmillan Publishing Company, N.Y.
3. *Golf Business Today*, April 1993, Vol. 1, No. 2 pp. 13, 19.

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plantings, the club has recently employed a horticulturist.

Lee has been an active member of MAAGCS since he came to the area to work with Dave Canavan at Bolling AFB Recreation Area in Warrenton. He has served on the board for more than 15 years and has risen through the offices twice to serve as president in 1973 and again in 1987. He was editor of the newsletter for six years and initiated the supporters list to provide revenue for professional printing. Lee's pastimes include photography and hunting and fishing. He's also an avid collector of golf history and memorabilia. His collection comprises more than 3,000 books, but his prize possession is the silver putter of Edward F. Riggs (of the banking family).

Lee, his wife Rita and their four boys have been familiar figures at association functions. He believes in supporting the association by both action and participation. He has missed only 10 meetings since he has been a Mid-Atlantic member and has attended all but two GCSAA annual meetings. Walter Montross, Jim Christy, Tom Knoll, and George Hoenig are all former assistants now in charge of area courses. Chris Dieter, who works with Chuck Thomson at the Fords Colony Golf Courses as the superintendent of the Gold Course is also his former employee—and his son. Lee's quite proud of these young men and hopes they took something away with them when as they continue their careers. If their success is any indication, Lee's new assistant, Stephen Marofsky, has a bright future.



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