

# Turfgrass Matters



September 1994, vol. 46, no. 7

Mid-Atlantic Golf Course Superintendents Newsletter

## Jon Machmuller to host September lunch meeting at the Beach Club in Ocean City

The September meeting will be hosted by Jon M. Machmuller at the Beach Club Golf Links on September 13. This will be our annual two-man best ball tournament and a joint meeting with the Eastern Shore Association of Golf Course Superintendents, of which Jon is the president.

We hope to boost September meeting attendance by having it at the beach. Although this is a tough time of year with the preparation for over-seeding and renovation projects, it is a wonderful time to visit the beach. Most of us are ready for a day or two away. Tourist traffic is thinning out in the resort area so bring your wife for a long weekend or just for the day.

The Beach Club is fast becoming the rage of Ocean City golf gossip. Cut out of the native hardwoods, it is a 7,020-yard masterpiece. It is a semi-private club that promotes the feeling of a highly exclusive club for the public to enjoy. Designed by Brian Ault of Ault, Clark & Associates and built by Mr. Machmuller the course seems to belong to its environment. Mr. Machmuller completed the 18-hole track in May 1991, just 20 months after the onset of construction. "The most rewarding part of construction is finishing," Jon tells us. "The problem is, I don't think you're ever finished."

Jon is now preparing for the

next eighteen holes of the planned 36-hole facility. forest delineation, engineering and final architectural renderings for permit submission are the first steps toward another

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20 months of hell. The existing 18-hole course is rye grass tees and fairways, fescue rough and bent greens cut to 7/64". The next 18 holes are planned for wall-to-wall bentgrass, providing all the elements needed are in place. Jon seems to be excited about the new course and is doing a large-scale drainage and over seeding project to the existing course. You may see some work going on the day of the meeting.

The Beach Club is proud of the new clubhouse which opened this spring. Jon was the project manager in charge of building the new building and did all the landscape design himself. "The clubhouse took a lot of my and my crew's time to complete, but I am very proud of everyone's efforts."

During the construction of the

first 18 holes, soil samples were taken and did not reveal a pretty picture. A pH level of 3.2 seemed to be the norm and not the exception. Large pockets of pH levels of 2.3 were found throughout. To date Jon said 13 tons of various types of lime have been applied per acre, tilled in with 900 lbs of potassium sulfate, 950 lbs triple super phosphorus and a witches'

*See Machmuller, page 7*

**Lunch/Meeting:** 10:00 a.m. Cost of lunch: \$30. Reservations necessary. Call 301-490-6202.

**Golf:** See Golf Notes, p. 3.

**Directions:** From Western Maryland take Rt. 50 East to Rt. 113 North. Keep to the left and watch for the golf sign. Make a U-turn and head south. Make the first right turn onto Deer Park Road. The club is on the right.

### Inside this Issue

President's Message _____	2
Education Notes _____	2
Golf Notes _____	3
Cphoon's Corner _____	3
Using Equipment Safely _____	4
Planning for Emergencies _____	6
John Deere Tournaments _____	8
New Members _____	8

**Machmuller, from page 1**

brew of micro nutrients. "Nutrient levels are all starting to show signs of balancing out now, and pH levels are climbing," Jon tells us.

Jon's roots are found in the Midwest—Nebraska to be exact. His career in turfgrass started when he was 18 as part owner-operator of a chemical lawn care business. In 1986 he sold his shares in the company and entered the world of golf course construction at Eldorado Hills CC, a nine-hole golf course just outside his hometown located on his father's estate. "My father had just passed away and the course was his dream, so I wanted to see it happen. I was hooked after that."

Jon is about to become certified—if he can find six hours to take the test (and a couple of months to study for it). He is an avid fisherman, both offshore and fresh water. Other activities would have to include water skiing, snow skiing and martial arts.

Jon and all his staff are excited about hosting the Mid-Atlantic supers' meeting on September 13 and are looking forward to seeing you at the Beach.

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