



# MID-ATLANTIC News Letter



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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Well it's over, that 13th summer that I had my apprehensions that it would never end. It wasn't quite the worst summer in my 13 years at Washington Golf & C.C. but it came close. As I look back it seems like a year ago when that unusual June hot spell hit us. Cursing our Washington weather helps us blow off a little steam, but it sure doesn't make it any easier to grow grass does it? I never heard so many superintendents talking about moving north. You always hear a little grumbling but the talk seems to be reaching a peak this year. This is the time of year when vague memories of my grass growing years in Pennsylvania come back. Dreams of golf courses where the worst problems were 1. Getting the grass cut, 2. Getting the snow plowed, and 3. Brown patch.

A club member asked a superintendent friend of mine what they could do to have better turf on their course; he answered "that's easy, just move 200 miles north."

## WELCOME TO WOODMONT

*by Bob Shields*

Another two years have gone by since the Mid-Atlantic members met at Woodmont Country Club and again it's my pleasure to invite you to the October 2nd, meeting. The members of the Board of Directors and the Greens Committee Chairman, Mr. Arthur Becker, wish you a pleasant day of golf and a successful meeting.

Golf Professional, Tony Marlowe, will be in the Golf Shop to meet you and to assist in any way. Dick Scereto will conduct the tournament and get you started off the first tee. Frank, the locker room attendant will help you find a place to put your clothes while you are playing golf. Mr. Aimi, Club Manager, says he will put on another one of his famous buffets so you won't go home hungry.

Woodmont has two 18 hole golf courses. The north course was designed by Al Tull and built by Frank Murray. It was opened for play in 1950. The back nine on the South course was designed by Al Tull and built by Leo Freudberg and myself in 1956. It's short but our members love it.

The tournament will be played on the south course where our bermuda grass fairways are in pretty good

condition. While you are here take a look at the north course fairways to see what happens when golfers insist on cutting blue grass at  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch.

All greens were C-1 C-19 bent grass at one time but all have been overseeded with Pennncross bent for several years at the rate of one pound of seed per month to each green during the growing season, after spiking.

Tees were U-3 Bermuda grass at one time, but all have been planted to P-16 bermuda. Those in the shade are what is left of poa after a hot summer. Tees are cut to  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch.

Collars were bent grass at one time, but as they went bad we resodded with merion blue. As that faded away we sodded again with Windsor blue which looked good until this summer. This fall we will drill in Windsor seed.

Fairways are my big problem. Years ago fairways turned brown every summer and golfers didn't complain because everything was brown due to Washington's notorious summer heat. Then we planted Bermuda grass cut at  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch on the tees and it looked so good the golfers wanted playing surfaces like that on fairways. Having two 18's it was decided to have one course in cool season grasses and the other in warm season, heat tolerant, Bermuda grass. We planted the south course fairways with U-3 Bermuda grass using a planting machine we developed ourselves and using U-3 stolons harvested from our Bermuda grass tees. This worked fine until the winter of 63,64 when we lost 80% of our fairways due to winter kill. In the years following we planted any Bermuda we could find that had survived the cold winter hoping it would survive another in some other location. It did not.

About two years ago, Dr. Felix Juska released a tested variety named P-16 and gave us enough to start a small nursery for further testing. We have been planting P-16 on all south course tees and bare spots all around the course during the last two seasons and have not seen any winter kill, but we know last winter was very mild. The entire 18th fairway was sprigged with P-16 stolons a year ago and the planting lines across the fairway are quite visible. We have great hopes for P-16 but to have better assurance of good fairways we have overseeded each spring with Arizona bermuda seed for the past two years. This fall we plan to overseed tees and fairways with Pennfine ryegrass and hope it will stay with us until the Bermuda grass comes out in late spring. The south course fairways are cut at  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch.

The north course tees and fairways will be seeded to a mixture of Windsor, merion and park Kentucky blue grass seed this fall and cut at  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch.

If you don't care to play golf but would like to look over the course, I'll be happy to show you around and