



# Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents NEWSLETTER



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## LAYTONSVILLE GOLF COURSE — APRIL 11 MEETING SITE

Laytonsville Golf Course, one of the three public golf courses owned and operated by the Montgomery County Revenue Authority, is the site for the April meeting of our association. Our host for the day is our Treasurer, Nick Vance, CGCS. Nick has been working at the course since the Spring of 1975 when he went to work as Assistant Superintendent under Terry Loibl. Two years later, when Terry moved back to his home in North Dakota, Nick assumed the duties as Superintendent at the Laytonsville course.

In 1980 Nick married Karen, both had children from previous marriages. Nick's two children, Deborah Annette Hall and Jeffery Scott Vance are both on their own now. Debbie is 26 years old, is married and lives in Frederick, Maryland. She is the accounting supervisor for NCS Inc. in Rockville, MD and currently working on her BA in financial management at Hood College. Jeff is now 23 years old and lives in Montgomery Village. He is working at National Applicators, as a drywall contractor and after a two year break he's planning on returning to college this fall. After two semesters of business he is planning on getting back into the turf industry. Karen's daughter, Traci Lynn Menapace and her husband Marty live in Silver Spring where Traci works for a real estate appraiser part time and attends Montgomery College. The Menapaces presented Karen and Nick with their first grandchild, Philip Joseph, last June.

Last Summer Nick, Karen and Jeffery Hunter, the last of the children still at home (Karen's son), moved to Columbia, Maryland where Jeff is a freshman at Hammond High School. He is on the school golf team and has become very interested in drama. Karen is the book-keeper-office manager for Sambuco's Food Services Inc. in Ellicott City, Maryland. Although Nick still loves to play golf and bowls one night a week in the winter months, his favorite pastime is boating. He and Karen have become avid boaters and both enjoy getting away on their boat whenever they can.

Laytonsville Golf Course was designed by Roger Peacock and built by Robert L.



Nick Vance, CGCS, Our Host

Elder. The course was open June 9, 1973. Originally the golf course was a short par 70 layout with two short par fives, one on each nine. The greens were seeded with Penncross Bentgrass, the tees and fairways were seeded with Bluegrass and the roughs were Tall Fescue and Bluegrass mixed. The original irrigation system had Griswold controls and Skinner UR 5 sprinkler heads on the greens and tees only.

In 1977 the twelfth hole was changed from a 410 yard par four to a 498 par five. About 100 yards of swamp and trees were cleared to make room for the new tee. The fourteenth hole was then changed from a 412 yard par five to a 390 yard par four. New back tees were also added on 4, 5, 9, and 11. These tees were added to give the golfers a little more variety. The white and blue tees on the original layout were too close together on most of the holes.

In 1983 the Griswold controls were replaced with a Rainbird MCS3 Master and 6 1230 satellites. Most of this work was done in house by the maintenance staff. The satellites were wired by our good friend and fellow superintendent at International Town and C.C., Steve Nash. Steve was working with Nick at the time.

The greens at Laytonsville average about 8,000 sq. feet. They are cut daily at 7/32 and get between 3½ and 4 pounds of Nitrogen per year. Scotts Goose-Crab Control has been used for the last three years and last fall TGR was applied for the first time. They are aerated and top-dressed twice each year. The last two times they have been aerified with a Verti-drain machine with ¾" hollow tines.

The fairways and tees have been overseeded the past five years with a perennial ryegrass blend. They are mowed three times a week at 13/16 of an inch and receive 1½ to 2 pounds of Nitrogen each year. There still is no water in the fairways but Nick is planning on starting on this project this summer. The tees are mowed three times a week at ½ inch and get between 2 and 3 pounds of N. per season.

At this writing the golf course is in the middle of a big renovation project. The fifteenth hole is a short par three, but it is all carry over a pond. The front of the green had settled so much that there was about a 27 degree drop from the back to the front of the green. If you were able to get the ball to stay on the green from the tee, there was still almost no way to keep it on the green if you missed the putt. Since the course is public and plays over 60,000 rounds per year some thing had to be done to correct the situation and improve play. On October 15 the original sod was cut from the green and placed in sand bunkers on the course. Then a six foot wall made of treated 6x6's was built in front of the green. The soil on the back of the green was then cut down and moved to the front. Then two new bunkers were cut into each side of the green. That soil was also used to build up the front of the green. About 80 tons of topdressing was then incorporated into the soil with a large tiller. Drainage tile  
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**RESERVATIONS**  
**(301) 381-0030**