

TurfTalk*



March 1990

Mid-Atlantic Golf Course Superintendents

Lester Tanner hosts March 13 meeting at Enterprise Golf Course

The inaugural meeting of the MAAGCS is scheduled for Tuesday, March 13. Lester Tanner and the Enterprise Golf Course are our hosts.

The Enterprise Golf Course is a public golf course owned by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Prince George's County.

"The course was named in honor of the U.S.S. Enterprise aircraft carrier and its Captain, Newton White," explains Lester. "When Captain White died, his wife sold the property to the Commission at a price that could be considered a gift."

Enterprise opened in October 1976 under its first superintendent, Bob Bracey. In May 1978, Lester Tanner became superintendent. Donovan Associates designed the golf course and Bob Elder was entrusted with its construction. Russell Roberts designed and installed the irrigation system.

Enterprise is a busy place, recording 60,000-plus rounds of golf annually. Lester says that since 1985 the golf course has reached its saturation point. On a typical day, few, if any, open tee times are available. Tee times are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. This policy has led to a unique situation. Some people have begun to arrive at the course at midnight to arrange the coveted early starting time. This occurs almost all the time during the spring, summer and fall, and typi-

cally there is a two to three hour wait beginning at 6 a.m.

The greens are fertilized with 6lbs. N, 2 lbs. P and 4 lbs. K per year. The fairways and tees receive 4 lbs. N, 1 lb. P and 2 lbs. K annually. The rough is treated with 2 lbs. N and just a hint of P and K every season.

The greens are mowed at 1/8 inch, seven days a week with Toro greensmowers. Fairways are mowed at 3/4 inch, two to three times per week with a Ransomes 350D. Tees are mowed at 5/8 inch two to three times per week with Toro Pro 84s. The rough is mowed

Some golfers at Enterprise have begun to arrive at midnight to get the coveted early starting times.

at 2 inches once a week with Jacobsen Blitzers.

"I feel Enterprise Golf Course has an outstanding staff," says Lester Tanner. Assistant superintendent Jay Vargo, foreman Mike Hall, mechanic George Railey, and course technicians Tom Nelson and Kevin Kreitzer. "It is these people with their various skills that make Enterprise look good. I depend on them and I'm proud to work with them."

Equally important, says Lester, "I work for a truly golf-oriented manager who has given me support and guidance. He is Frank Stoppa and you'll see him at the



Lester Tanner has been Enterprise's superintendent since 1978.

meeting." Cora Thompson is his assistant.

Dinner is at the Newton White Mansion near the Clubhouse. Golf is "anytime," Lester says. "You reserve tee time when you arrive," adding matter-of-factly: "If it's a nice day, you may have some wait. We all feel privileged to be your hosts and we'll be glad to assist you."

Directions:

From 95 going south: Take route 450 east. Right onto Route 193 (Enterprise Rd.) Course is about 3 miles on right.

From 95 going north: Take route 214 (Central Ave.) east. Left onto Route 193 (Enterprise Rd.) Course is about 3 miles on left.

From 301 going south: Take route 450 west. Turn left onto Route 193 (Enterprise Rd.) Course is about 3 miles on right.

From 301 going north: Take 214 (Central Ave.) west. Go right onto Route 193 (Enterprise Rd.) Course is about 3 miles on left.