

Turfgrass Matters



July 1991, vol. 44, no. 5

Mid-Atlantic Golf Course Superintendents Newsletter

Annual Two-Man Tourney at Turf Valley on July 9

Mike Gilmore has his team lined up and the south course ready for the annual two-man tourney.

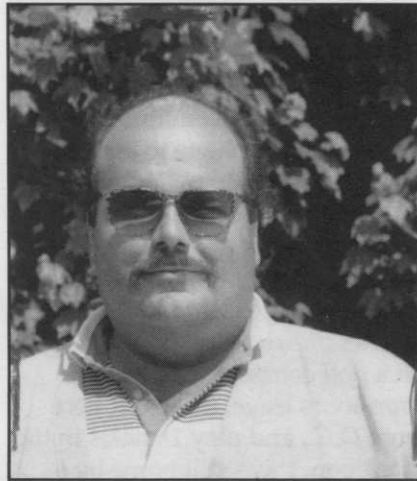
Turf Valley, boasts two 18-hole courses plus another nine-holes; one is reserved for club members, the other for outings and "B" members. That the courses are switched every week, constitutes an appealing feature for its members. "People join for the variety," says Mike.

The club, in existence about 30 years, is owned by the Mangione family of Baltimore. About five years ago, they added a hotel and conference center, and just this spring the nine holes.

Mike is starting his second year as superintendent here. His big project has been to rebuild a dozen or so tees. "We are fortunate to have a bulldozer, big track loader and our own operator. With this, we have been able to complete six or seven tees on the north course and four or five on the south course. We are lucky we can do it in-house."

Mike hopes to begin work on the last nine holes in the fall or spring. The final nine, as was the entire layout at Turf Valley, is an Ed Ault design.

The biggest challenge to overseeing 45 holes is the organization, Mike declares. He credits his smooth-running operation to the help and enthusiasm of three excellent assistants, Bill Bopst, Ben Bryan, and Eric Van Janek. Says Mike, "You're only as good as the people you have working for you and their willingness to carry out plans. They are the ones who



make my job easier."

At Turf Valley, greens are mowed six days a week at 5/32", the fairways and greens three days a week at 5/8". This alone helps keep a work force of 39 busy, but this spring, in addition, they have done extensive plantings. One major project is a beautiful perennial border along the pro shop. It helps, however, that this year they have been on a turf growth regulator program—especially on the south course which has a tendency to stay wet. "So far," says Mike, "it has lived up to its billing. I look at it as a tool to help reduce mowing."

Mike grew up in Lutherville, Md., attended the U. Mass Stockbridge school, and began his career at Woodmont Country Club working for Mike Larsen. He was, notes Mike, "a big influence on me. I learned a lot of valuable information there." Mike then spent a year at Glendale CC in Greenbelt before becoming a superintendent for the Baltimore

Golf Corporation which supervises five public courses. Before beginning his tenure at Turf Valley, however, he was superintendent for two years at Clifton Park and two years at Mount Pleasant.

Mike's principal hobby is golf. He tries to play a lot in the spring and fall. He prefers, as do most superintendents he says, to play on other courses—he'd rather not look at his own problems.

As for additional pastimes, Mike loves to spend time with his family—wife Jody and her three children—Lucas, Megan and Katie. Married since last September, Mike and Jody are expecting their first baby in September. With his schedule, Mike may have to learn to change diapers on the run.

Mike urges everyone to come out and enjoy the day. Lunch is available in the Terrace Room, and he assures us the dinner of shrimp scampi and filet will be marvelous. Ed Crow of the Maryland Department of Agriculture will speak on pesticide storage.

Reservations: Call 301-381-0030
Cost: dinner, \$25; carts \$10.

Tee Times: noon - 2; to reserve call: 301-465-8648 *and call early!*

Directions: From Baltimore: I-695 to I-70 west to the Marriotts-ville Rd exit. Turn left on Marriottsville Rd. At the first stop sign turn left onto Route 40. Go 7/10 mile to Turf Valley Road. From Washington: Take I-495 to Rte 29 north. Go to I-70 west then follow the Baltimore directions.