

Turfgrass Matters



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Mid-Atlantic Golf Course Superintendents Newsletter

Wade Barrett to host March 12 meeting at Poolesville Golf Course

Wade Barrett, superintendent of the Poolesville Golf Course, will host the first meeting of 1991 on March 12.

Now a public course operated by the Montgomery County Revenue Authority, Poolesville was founded as River Road Country Club, built by Bernie Segal and designed by Ed Ault. The club was leased by ITT for a time before F. O. Day bought it in 1977 and renamed it Potomac Valley Country Club.

The course is 6,478 from the white tees, 6,757 from the blue and 5,599 from the white. Par is 71 for men, 73 for women. Poolesville receives about 45,000 rounds annually.

Fairways and tees are mowed three to four times a week at 5/8", greens every day at 3/16". The greens are Cohansy bentgrass and poa. "The fairways were bluegrass and fescue until 1983 when I started overseeding the tees and fairways with rye—the traffic is so much heavier now." Greens and tees receive three to four pounds N a year.

Wade and his staff of four full-time employees are currently putting in blacktop cart paths. "We'll get back at it again as soon as the weather breaks." In 1985 they installed a ToroVaritime-2, fully automatic irrigation system.

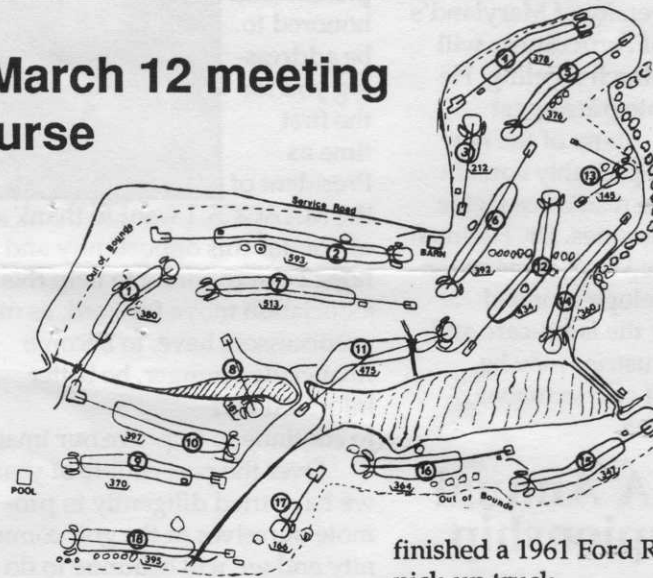
Wade, who has been superintendent since 1983 was an assistant at Potomac Valley for four years prior to that. Before that he worked as an auto mechanic. This,

he declares, was an excellent career move. Getting under a hot car in 90-degree weather was not too appealing, while being a superintendent affords a lot of variety.

Working at the golf course provided another important benefit for Wade—it's where he met his wife Shelley. She was assistant manager when the club was owned by F. O. Day. When Day sold the course she lost her job. Shelley took this opportunity to go to law school, graduated in 1987 and is now an Assistant States Attorney in Frederick County.

Wade enjoys playing golf, although he claims he's not very good. He finds it relaxing except on his own course. "It's hard to play where you work. You see golfers riding golf carts across tees, and worse.

For true relaxation, however, Wade prefers hunting and fishing. He has a 19-foot boat he takes to the Delaware River. He also enjoys restoring cars; he just



finished a 1961 Ford Ranchero pick-up truck.

Wade hopes you will come out and enjoy your day.

Cocktails from 6 to 7 p.m., dinner at 7. Cost is \$25. For reservations call 301-381-0030.

Directions

From Baltimore:

Take I-70 west to I-270 south to Rte. 124 west, to Darnestown Rd (Rte. 28). Follow Darnestown Rd. to Whites Ferry Rd (Rte. 107), left on Whites Ferry Rd. to Poolesville. Left on West Willard Rd., 1.5 miles to Poolesville Golf Course entrance.

From Virginia:

Take I-495 to I-270 north to Rte. 124. Then follow above directions.

Golf notes

Golf will be from 12 to 1:30. Call for tee times: 301-428-8143. Lunch is available. Golf will be Scotch Doubles, combined handicap 15-50, alternate shot after the first tee, and half of the combined handicap to figure the net score.

Note: Due to renovations, no showers are available. But don't let that discourage you. It should be a cool day.