

Turfgrass Matters



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Mid-Atlantic Golf Course Superintendents Newsletter

Prince Georges Country Club to host Tuesday, September 10 meeting

by Mike Evans

The original Prince Georges Country Club was built in the early 1920s in Landover, Maryland. In 1980 the Club moved to its current location in Mitchellsville with a meager 180 members.

Although Arnold Palmer and Ed Seay had some architectural input, the golf course was basically designed and built by Algie Pulley. The Club currently has 430 golfing members and receives about 30,000 rounds of golf annually. Larry Ringer, the PGA Golf Professional, came to Prince Georges this spring after 16 years at the Naval Academy.

Since opening for play, the golf course has been challenging golfers and superintendents alike. It measures 7,089 yards from the championship tees, 6,582 and 6,195 from the two sets of men's tees, and 5,652 yards from the forward tees. Par is 72 except for the forward tees where it is 73. The main course features are a 65 acre lake which comes into play on five holes and severely contoured greens.

Construction of the golf course left much to be desired and, although many problems have been corrected, many still remain. The most critical was the construction of the greens and tees. They were built with concrete or masonry sand and no organic amendment. Localized dry spots are a tremendous problem as are areas that constantly remain saturated. This unforgiving "greensmix" causes severe problems during the

summer months. Rebuilding was not a viable option for our Club, so we have embarked on a rigorous deep-tine aerification program using the Verti-Drain with 1 1/8" coring tines. The concrete sand plugs are removed using a Cushman core harvester and the greens are topdressed with Harford TD 1000 at the rate of 6-7 tons per green. Needless to say, this isn't exactly the crew's favorite job. To date, we have performed this operation five times.

The tees were built without drainage on three to four inches of concrete sand and were originally seeded to bentgrass. They failed miserably every summer. We have been on a zoysiagrass conversion program on tees which has worked quite well. To date, 24 tees have been converted and we plan to do all the but shadiest tees.

To aid in coping with our soil-related problems, we purchased a Toro Hydroject 3000 in late July. I am extremely impressed with this piece of equipment and feel confident that it will dramatically improve the quality of our turf in the years to come.

In the spring of 1988, a new Toro irrigation system was installed by Tanto Construction Company. The system uses VT-2 controllers for fairways and VT-4 controllers for tees and greens with a VT-3 video central. The new system has been a major improvement to the golf course and its installation was a tremendous learning experience.

The Club is currently in the process of searching for a golf

course architect to design a landscape master plan to enhance the aesthetics of the golf course. Other major projects slated for the next several years include a new retaining wall, which we hope to be made of stone, to go around the pond on hole number five; new cart paths around the entire course; and renovation of bunkers.

Mike Evans holds a B.S. in agronomy from Penn State. Before moving to Prince Georges CC in 1987 he was assistant superintendent at Burning Tree, and prior to that, assistant superintendent at Congressional.

Mike and his wife Joey, a dental hygienist, are thrilled with baby daughter Lindsey, born nine weeks early on June 22. Although she weighed in at only three pounds and spent six weeks in the hospital, she is now home and doing just fine.

The Meeting

Cocktails: 6:00 - 7:00

Dinner: 7:00

Cost: Dinner, \$25; cash bar

Reservations: 301-381-0030

Directions

From Baltimore—B-W Parkway South to Greenbelt Rd. (Rte. 193). Turn left, go six-seven miles. Turn left onto Woodmore Rd. Make first left (Pleasant Prospect.) Go 3/4 mile. Club is on left.

From Maryland or Virginia—Take 495 to 450 east. Go approximately five miles. Make right on Enterprise Rd. Go 2 1/2 miles. Make left onto Woodmore Rd. Or—take 495 to 214 east (Central Avenue). Go three-four miles. Make left on Enterprise Rd. Go approximately two miles to light. Make right on Woodmore Rd.