

Turfgrass Matters



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Mid-Atlantic Golf Course Superintendents Newsletter

Bill Neus to host MAAGCS picnic at Hobbit's Glen August 11

Hobbit's Glen Golf Course is a semi-private facility in Columbia, Md. It is part of the Columbia Association which also owns and operates 22 pools, three tennis clubs, two athletic clubs, one indoor ice rink, and the Columbia Bus System. CA (as the company is affectionately known) maintains 2,000-plus acres of park land and other community services too numerous to mention. It is the largest private, non-profit recreation corporation in the country.

The course, opened in 1968 and designed by Ed Ault, serves 55,000 18-hole rounds annually. So as you might imagine, traffic stress tends to be our biggest problem. There are four sets of tees measuring: blue—7126, white—6789, gold—6212, red—5463. The greens average 6,000-plus square feet and are mowed six times per week at 3/16". They receive 6 lbs. N, 2lbs. P, 6 lbs K per year. A TGR program started four years ago followed several years of Turf Cal applications and there is still too much poa.

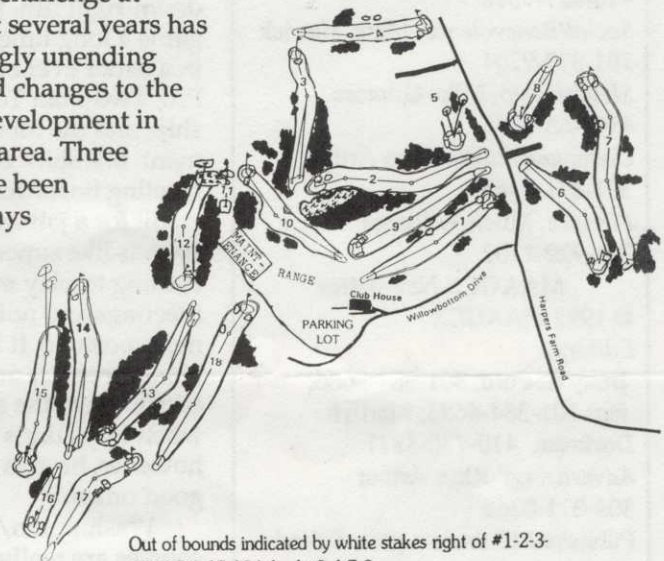
Fairways are mowed with a 223D and 450D, three times per week at 3/4". They are primarily ryegrass and receive 3 lbs N per year.

Most tees are ryegrass with some consisting of Zoysia. The Zoysia has generally done very well under the heavy traffic until this year. With the cold spring, it was very slow breaking dormancy and in a few areas is still very thin

and recovering.

The biggest challenge at Hobbit's the last several years has been the seemingly unending construction and changes to the course due to development in and around the area. Three new greens have been built, two fairways moved, tee enlargement never stops, traps are being renovated, paths are constantly being installed and the list goes on and on. One day I'll know what it is like to just maintain a golf course. Dealing with developers day in and day out has been a very discouraging experience. I wouldn't wish it on my worst enemy.

This is always a great evening of fellowship (or crying on each others' shoulders). So Hobbit's Glen is ready to throw the biggest bash yet, so come on out. **The Picnic:** will be from 4 until 8:30. Plenty of food and beer. Be sure to bring the entire family. There will be entertainment for the children. Guests (non-family members) are also welcome—their fee is \$5. There will be no speaker and reservations are not necessary. Bring a covered dish if you wish.



Out of bounds indicated by white stakes right of #1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-17-18 left of #3-4-7-8
Red stakes indicate lateral hazards. Yellow stakes indicate water hazards

Golf: Golf will be available starting at 11:00 a.m. Call the starter at 410-997-9810 or the pro shop at 410-730-5980. Carts are \$11 per person for an 18-hole round.

Directions:

From Baltimore: Take 70 west to Rte 29 to Columbia. Turn right (west) on Rte 108. Go approximately three miles to Harpers Farm Road and turn left. Then take second right on Willow-bottom Drive. Go several blocks to club on right. **From Washington:** Take 495 to Rte 29 north to Columbia. Go west on Rte 108 and continue as described above.