

Turfgrass Matters



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Mid-Atlantic Golf Course Superintendents Newsletter

November 10 MAAGCS meeting to be held at Towson G&CC

Mark Waltz will host the November meeting at Towson Golf and Country Club. He looks forward to having MAAGCS members play in the beautiful Delaney Valley, and to welcoming you for dinner in their recently renovated clubhouse.

A private club, Towson G&CC was designed by Jeffrey Cornish. Built in 1970 by Bob Vincent, relatively few changes have been necessary. In 1987, however, under the direction of architect Bob Elder, some renovations were completed: 20 bunkers and additional tees were added. Three years ago they installed an automatic irrigation system. The only other project undertaken has been to convert one fairway, number 16, to bentgrass. Why only one fairway, you may ask. It seems that assistant superintendent, Doug Bader, needed one course to graduate. He chose Special Topics in Agronomy: Bentgrass Conversion. The club's greens committee agreed to convert the fairway as a test to see if the members would like it. The conversion was successful—Doug graduated. "The members think it's beautiful," laughs Mark, "but they have rather high handicaps and can't hit off of it—it's mowed too low."

The layout of Towson is 6,659 from the blues and 6,439 from the whites. The greens are bent/poa, tees are bentgrass, fairways are ryegrass, and the rough is bluegrass. Greens are mowed at 9/64", fairways at 3/4", intermediate cut

is at 1-1/2", and the rough at 2". Mark says that for the first time this year he's using Pro-Grass on the tees.

For Mark and his wife Aimee, golf is a family affair. She has been Towson's club champion or runner-up for the last five years. She also plays in Maryland state tournaments. "We're compatible," says Mark, "she's an 8 handicapper and so am I. But she beats me all the time. She makes it challenging; we play for who's going to clean the house or something."

It shouldn't be surprising that these two met on the golf course. Aimee spotted Mark when he caddied for her brother—now the pro at York (Pa.) CC—when he played in amateur tournaments in Maryland. She asked Mark to play a round with her and eight months later they were married. They honeymooned in Hawaii where they played golf every day. And now, of course, their vacations center around golf—they usually get away for two weeks in the winter to play in Florida or Charleston.

Now that Paige (six months old) is here, Mark and Aimee, a mortgage banker, do some serious schedule juggling. Mark, who goes to work very early, takes the afternoon shift, while Aimee watches Paige in the mornings and on weekends. Mark says it works very well and even allows him time to indulge in his other serious hobby—losing money to Kenny Braun on the golf course.

Golf: Shotgun start beginning at 11:00. Tee time not necessary. See details in *Golf Notes*, page 3.

The meeting: Cocktails at 6:00, hors d'oeuvres at 6:30, dinner at 7:00. Cost is \$30. Cash bar. Dress is formal: coat and tie. Please make a reservation by calling 301-490-6202.

Directions: from Baltimore: 695 to Delaney Valley Rd (Exit 27) north. Stay on Delaney Valley Rd. until you cross Loch Raven Reservoir bridge. Watch for the flashing light that signals a fork in the road. Bear right at the fork. The first left will be Stonehill Road. Go 3/4 of a mile to the clubhouse.

from D.C./Northern Va.: I-95 north to 695. Take 695 in the direction of Towson, (a left-lane exit), then, follow above directions.

GCSAA President to speak at November meeting

Mr. Bill Roberts, President, GCSAA, will be our keynote speaker at the November 10 meeting. He will address the Bylaw changes and the future of the GCSAA. And, I am sure Mr. Roberts would like to answer any questions our members may have. This is a great opportunity for the MAAGCS to show our support for the GCSAA and our President. See you at the meeting.

Dean M. Graves
Education Chairman