

# Turfgrass Matters



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Mid-Atlantic Golf Course Superintendents Newsletter

## MAAGCS Annual Tournament To Be Held at Winchester GC on October 13

The MAAGCS Annual Tournament will be held at the Winchester Golf Club, Winchester Virginia, on October 13. Host superintendent Preston Licklider encourages one and all to visit his historic club.

Located in the scenic Shenandoah Valley, Winchester GC was founded in 1923. This 18-hole course measures about 6,450 from the back tees. Here, in Blue Ridge country, however, the tee markers are not the traditional blue, white and red; they are red, yellow and green—the colors of (what else?) apples.

This private club boasts a membership of approximately 550. Not all are golfing members, however; tennis is quite popular now.

Two years ago Preston supervised installation of an automatic irrigation system and this past year the club renovated the clubhouse. The greens, all bentgrass, are mowed daily at 5/32". Most tees are also bentgrass and, with the aprons, are mowed three times a week at 9/16". Fairways are mowed three times at 3/4".

Preston, who grew up in Front Royal, learned to be a superintendent by working for his father who was superintendent of Winchester GC before him. He has been there for a

total of 13 years, now.

When not working on the course, Preston is playing. His major pastime, he says, is golf. He plays a lot, on as many

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different courses as possible, and finds doing so a great asset to his profession. A note of warning to visiting supers: he plays to a four handicap.

Though he doesn't get to many of the MAAGCS meetings, Preston regularly attends meetings of the Shenandoah Turf Association, most of whose members are clubs on the western side of the Blue Ridge.

At home, Preston is fully occupied with his two sons, Wesley and Cody—ages two and three. "They're both wild," he says, "and into everything."

When not on the course or chasing his boys, Preston enjoys deer hunting, primarily from his place near Browntown, Va., not far from the Shenandoah National Park.

The second week of Octo-

ber is traditionally prime time for fall foliage, so make an effort to play this lovely course at its most beautiful; and bring home a bushel or a peck of apples.



**Golf:** Tee off any time between 11 and 1. Reservations not necessary. Just show up.

**Meeting:** Cocktails are at 6:00 (cash bar) and dinner at 7:00 p.m. (\$20).

**Directions:** Winchester GC is located beside I-81 in the heart of Winchester, Va., a beautiful area but hard to reach. From Baltimore and even the northern part of Washington it is best to take I-70W or 270N to Frederick, then 340W through Harpers Ferry and Charlestown to Route 7. From Washington and northern Va. take Route 7W through Leesburg. Route 7 crosses I-81 and into town, turn left on Pleasant Valley Road (Post Office on right), then left again on Cork Street (big cemetery on right), then through the park, over I-81 and the club is on your right. Driving time should be two hours from Baltimore and 1-1/2 hours from Washington.