

# Turfgrass Matters



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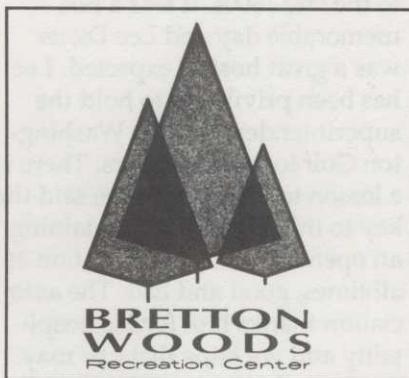
Mid-Atlantic Golf Course Superintendents Newsletter

## Larry Ott and Bretton Woods Recreation Center to host Annual Picnic, *Wednesday August 11*

Bretton Woods Recreation Center occupies 280 scenic acres along the Potomac River near Germantown, Maryland. The International Monetary Fund purchased what was then farmland in the late 1960s, then developed it as a recreational facility for its employees. A private club, membership at Bretton Woods is limited to employees of the Fund, the World Bank, and several other affiliated organizations.

Bretton Woods sports an eighteen-hole golf course, but as the name implies, golf is not the only game at the site. Also available to members are a swimming pool complex, a tennis area with six hard courts and eight Har-Tru courts, two soccer fields, a basketball and volleyball area, a picnic area, and two playgrounds. Large undeveloped areas of woods and fields around the perimeter of the property help Bretton Woods fit into the surrounding rural area.

Designed by Edmund Ault, the golf course measures 6,327 yards from the white tees and 6,663 from the blue. In earlier years, Bretton Woods had wide fairways and open rough areas. There are now about 30 acres of fairways, and the planting and growth of trees have brought more penalties into the rough. A former member from Japan donated 174 Oriental cherry trees for planting on the golf course this spring, and some of these have survived through the dry conditions of June and July.



The soil greens at Bretton Woods are bentgrass with the usual problems of *Poa annua* intrusion. They have been on a TGR program for *Poa* management for several years. The TGR program now consists of multiple low-rate applications of the WP product. They receive about 3.25 lbs of N each year, and are mowed at 5/32" five or six times per week. Tees have some portions of bentgrass, some ryegrass areas, and some areas of zoysia. They receive about 4.0 lbs of N each year. The fairways are mostly ryegrass, although some of them were sprigged to bermuda in the past, and the bermuda areas are spreading. The fairways received 2.5 lbs of N last year with most of that applied in the fall. They are treated with two applications of Prograss in the fall for control of *Poa annua*, and they received two light-rate applications of TGR WP this spring for growth retardation. The fairways are mowed at 9/16", with the frequency of mowing tied to the rate of growth. The Potomac River

location means there is high humidity throughout the summer, and management of the fairways is always a struggle between July 4 and late August, even with regular use of fungicides.

"Bretton Woods is not usually on the leading edge of golf course management," confesses Larry. "Perhaps it's the heat of the summer, but they are considering

*See Ott, page 2*

### **Picnic, Picnic, Picnic!**

The annual picnic is one of the few occasions for MAAGCS families to renew acquaintances in an informal, social situation, enjoy a wonderful recreational facility and share marvelous food. You may play golf, swim, play tennis or merely laze about. Ben Stagg is doing his crab thing while John Strickland is in charge of corn-on-the-cob. There will be hamburgers, hot dogs, soda and beer. A clown will be on hand from 5:00-7:00 to entertain the children. You should make your own arrangements for golf: for tee times call Bretton Woods Pro Shop at 301-948-5405. For the picnic, please bring a salad or a dessert and show up *rain or shine*.

**Directions:** Take the River Road (Rte. 190) exit from I-495 (the Washington beltway). Continue west past Potomac Village to Bretton Woods—12 miles from the Beltway, Bretton Woods is on the left just before the intersection with Seneca Road.

**Ott, from page 1**

some new ways to make the club more accommodating to golfers and to the environment. The bunker rakes, which formerly had stickers reading 'Place rake in bunker,' will be labeled 'Leave rake anywhere you want.' A new drive-up practice area is being designed—golfers will be able to park their carts on the practice tee, then hit shots while sitting down. And cutworms are being trained to do the aeration on the tees.

Larry Ott has been superintendent at Bretton Woods since May, 1988. He grew up near Cleveland, Ohio, and started golf course work at a local club by picking up balls on the practice range. After receiving a degree in Biology from Marietta College in Ohio, he worked for five years on the crew at the Kittansett Club, a links-type

course near Cape Cod. After some time off for additional course work at the University of Rhode Island, he worked for a lawn service company. He then spent 10 years managing the grounds at Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C. before returning to golf course work at Bretton Woods. He lives at the club with a growing collection of books, cats, and Chevrolet trucks.

Says Larry, "any description of Bretton Woods would be incomplete without mention of its maintenance staff: Buzz Stine, Bill Beachley, Earl Fox, Buddy Kinsey, Mark Mills, Jerry Stine, and Larry Weller make up the small group of veteran employees who do a large job in a reliable and capable way."

Come to the picnic and enjoy your day at Bretton Woods!

**COHOON'S CORNER**

○ Tim Haines, formerly of Trotter's Glen Golf Course, has left the area to accept a position at Palmetto Dunes in Hilton Head, South Carolina. I guess the grass is always greener on somebody else's golf course, especially in August and the other course is wall-to-wall Bermuda. Congratulations and good luck, Tim.

○ Tom Lipscomb has left Norbeck CC to work at TPC Avenel. Tom will replace Tom Haske, CGCS, as superintendent of the club that annually hosts the Kemper Open. Good Luck, Tom.

○ And speaking of Tom Haske, he and his wife Marty (formerly of Turf Equipment and Supply Co., Inc.) are relocating to Florida. We will sure miss them both and hope all goes well in the Sunshine State. Please stay in touch.



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