

Turfgrass Matters



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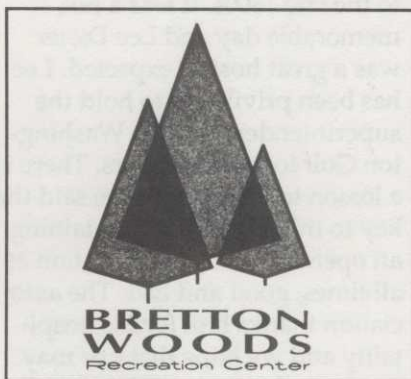
Mid-Atlantic Golf Course Superintendents Newsletter

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

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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.