

# Turfgrass Matters



July 1993, vol. 45, no. 5

Mid-Atlantic Golf Course Superintendents Newsletter

## July 13 Meeting to be at Washington GCC

### Lee Dieter to host individual tourney

Lee Dieter will host the July MAAGCS meeting at Washington Golf and Country Club, the oldest existing golf club in Virginia and the metropolitan Washington area. In fact, the club is currently planning its centennial—1994 marks the 100th anniversary of the Arlington, Virginia course. The club has been at the Glebe Road site since 1908 where it moved from leased property on the Arlington Heights (Fort Meyer). WGCC's proud heritage includes having presidents Taft, Wilson, Harding and Coolidge as members. George Bush played tennis there, but not golf.

Lee has been WGCC's superintendent since 1961 and since that time has hosted a number of MAAGCS meetings, including the first Superintendent-Professional Tournament in 1973. Lee and Clare Emery, the well-known Mid-Atlantic professional, enjoyed a great working and personal relationship. When Clare died in 1981 the club, Lee, and MAAGCS members donated the trophy for which we played until this year.

The course—5835 yards, 125 slope (white tees)—has had the input of various architects: Donald Ross, 1908; Toomey and Flynn, 1918; Fred Findlay, 1957; Al Jamison, 1965; Algie Pulley, 1976; Ault-Clark, 1987. The club is currently working on implementing a master plan by Craig

Schreiner ASGCA. The renovations to date include the redesign of the first, fifth and eighth greens and the reworking of all bunkers. Grass basins with drains have been added to a number of holes



and the third and eleventh tees have been rebuilt. Work on the bunkers was just finished in mid-June and the sod is not completely grown in. Ponko Construction Co. did the recent renovations.

During the past 20 years, the course fairways and intermediate rough have been overseeded with the best perennial ryegrass varieties. They have been on a preventive fungicide program and have been played to summer rules the past five golfing seasons. The fairways are being mowed at 5/8" and the rough at 2 1/2". The bent-poa greens are mowed daily to maintain a speed of 8 1/2', approximately 9/64". The rye tees and aprons are on the same program as the fairways. The bent-poa tees are mowed at 5/16" and treated the same as the greens except they are mowed every other day. Crabgrass control this year is Dimension on everything except the rough which was

treated with pendimethalin. Turf growth regulators have been applied to the fairways, Scotts TGR on all fairways but 10,12,13, and 15 which were treated with Primo. The fairways have been treated with Prograss five of the past six years. The fairways have a large percentage of Bermuda grass, which seems to be moving this season. The TGRs have slowed down the ryegrass so much that there is less competition for the warm season grasses.

As for aesthetics, WGCC is sporting a number of new perennial beds designed by Bob Mortensen, a landscape architect and member of the green committee, and to care for the

*See Dieter page 5*

**Golf:** The club can accommodate only 60 golfers, so for this month it's MAAGCS members only on a first-come basis. Tee times essential. Call the club at 703-524-4600 and ask for the pro shop.

**Dinner:** Cocktails at 7:00, dinner at 8:00; \$30. Coat and tie required. Reservations must be made by **July 9: 301-490-6202.**

**Directions:** From Maryland via the Legion Bridge: take 495 to Exit 12A (Dulles Access Rd.) and follow signs to I-66 East. Take I-66 to Glebe Rd. Go north on Glebe about 2.5 miles to the club. There is parking on both sides of Glebe and on the west side of the tennis buildings on Old Dominion Drive. From the other direction on the Beltway: Take 495 to I-66 East and follow above directions.



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## Roger Maxwell to Speak at July 13 Meeting

Roger Maxwell, vice president of Marriott Golf which consists of almost twenty courses throughout the country, will be the keynote speaker for the July meeting. Roger was named one of the 36 most powerful individuals in golf by *Golf Digest* and eighteenth most influential individual in the industry by *Golf Week Magazine* in 1991. I assure you his presentation will be informative as to the direction our business is taking and its outlook in the future.

**GOLF NOTES**

Thanks to Steve Nash and his fine staff for providing a well-groomed International Town and CC for our two-man team championship. Playing conditions were perfect, thanks to Steve and his crew, also thanks to Mike Rayan, head pro, and his fine staff. The results of the two-man team championship: **Gross:** 1st—Ron Hawkins & Kirk Intermill (70); 2nd—Bill Shirk & Tim Sage (72); 3rd—Glenn Smicky & Bob Wren (73). **Net:** 1st—Lester Tanner & Jim Halley (59); 2nd—Mike Gilmore & Jeff Blind (61); 3rd—Lentz Wheeler & Tom Knoll (62). **Longest Drive:** George Renault (Sponsor: G.L. Cornell); **Closest to the pin:** Walter Montross (Sponsor: Summit Hall); **Closest to the pin:** Jim McHenry (Sponsor: Pro-Lawn); **Closest to the pin:** Sean Remington (Sponsor: Egypt Farms); **Closest to the pin:** John Newcomb (Sponsor: Loft's).

Thanks to all this month's sponsors! Your support is greatly appreciated.  
**July Golf:** The meeting and golf tournament will be at Washington Golf & CC Our host Lee Dieter will have the course in mint condition. It is always a pleasure to visit WGCC and Lee. The tournament will be an individual net and gross tournament. *Please note:* Golf will be limited to 60 players and all must have a tee time. Please call the pro shop and request a tee time for the MAAGCS tournament: 703-524-4600. No guests please. All members of MAAGCS are welcome to play. Entry fee will be \$5.  
This month's sponsor for longest drive and all closest-to-the-pin contests will Finch Equipment.

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

The June meeting at International Town and Country Club was very successful. Steve Nash was busy getting ready for his Member Guest tournament, yet he had the golf course ready for us on Tuesday. For those who played there prior to renovation, it's not the same golf course. The new sodded greens were large and all bentgrass; quite different than the old Poa greens. At the same time significant improvements were made to other parts of the golf course, and Steve and his membership are starting to reap the benefits.



I attended the Kemper Open at TPC at Avenel and enjoyed some great golf while admiring the job our longtime member, Tom Haske, did in conditioning the golf course for the tournament. Tom and his wife, Marty—who works for Turf Equipment and Supply, are relocating to Florida. The MAAGCS wishes them well.

Our education chairman, Dean Graves, hosted the Mazda LPGA tournament June 7-13, and I know all went well. Dean was using the eight new greens he had McDonald & Sons build last fall. It is to his credit that he had them ready for tournament play already.

The speaker, Stephanie Hau of Chesapeake Environmental Management had a lot of good information for the membership on water use for the golf course. It was evident by the number of people who approached her afterward that this is becoming a

See *President*, page 5



**COHOON'S CORNER**

- GCSAA Director George E. Renault III, CGCS, has been appointed to a federal advisory committee dealing with the accessibility of recreational facilities. George, who is a disabled veteran, will advise the United States Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board on access issues that specifically relate to golf.
- Congratulations to Steve and Carla Nash on the birth of their son Nicholas Garrison Nash. Nicholas was born on May 23 and was 10 lbs. 11 ozs. and 22".
- Best wishes to member Lawrence Harrison who is recovering after having surgery on his leg on May 22.
- Mr. Byron Nelson has been named the recipient of the "Old Tom Morris Award," given annually to the individual who best exhibits the spirit of "Old Tom." He will be presented with his award at the annual banquet in Dallas, Texas this coming February.
- Congratulations to Nick Vance, CGCS, on his move to Falls Road Golf Course. Nick will replace retiring superintendent Ralph Strouth.
- Thanks to our two quick-witted members who contributed cartoon captions; *they weren't in a fowl mood.*

**Responses to our 'You Caption the Cartoon' Invitation**



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— Michael Guercin

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# Golf Course Construction in Maryland

by John Stern and Paul Dunn, Students at the Institute of Applied Agriculture, University of Maryland

With the year 2000 rapidly approaching we will also observe 100 years of golf in Maryland. In the mid-1890s the first two golf courses opened in Maryland: the Chevy Chase Country Club in Montgomery County (1895) and the Elkridge Golf Club in Baltimore County (1896). However, the addition of new clubs was slow in coming—over the next two decades only eight new courses were built.<sup>1</sup>

The first big boom in golf course construction came in the “Roaring Twenties” with 15 new courses (fig. 1). This new interest centered in Baltimore County (5) and Montgomery County (4). Although the rise continued during the early 1930s, the depression and war years sharply curtailed additional construction.

The next boom in construction came in the mid-1950s and lasted 25 years! Seventy-two of Maryland’s golf courses, over half the total number, were built during that quarter century. Through the 1970s the building of new golf courses closely matched those trends noticed on the national level.<sup>2</sup> New golf course construction was flourishing with seemingly no end in sight; however, the 1980s experienced a dramatic decrease in new construction, with only eight new courses opening.

Predicting the future of the next decade is difficult, but there are indications that the 1990s may have the potential to surpass the record of 29 golf courses built in the 1960s. In 1990-1993 the state has seen 14 new golf courses open, almost half the 1960s record. Also, 11 new courses opened in 1991 and 1992, which is more than in any other two-year period in

Maryland’s history. Nationally, Maryland is not in the “top ten” for the number of total or new golf courses.<sup>3</sup> Florida currently leads the nation in the number of golf courses with 1,052 and Michigan opened 29 new courses in 1992. But, with the start of the 1990s it does seem that Maryland has rebounded from the downturn of the last decade.

Six counties in Maryland dominate as to the number of golf courses in the state (fig. 2). They account for 62% of the number of courses in the state, with Montgomery (26) and Baltimore (21) counties having the most.

Since 1895, many architects have been involved in the construction of the state’s golf courses. Nationally known architects such as Donald Ross and Robert Trent Jones have built

quality courses. However, the architect responsible for the greatest number of golf courses is Edward B. Ault (fig. 3).

To say “Mr. Ault has had an influence on Maryland golf,” would be akin to saying, “Jack Nicklaus was a good golfer who won a few tournaments!” Mr. Ault and his associates have designed 31 courses or 22% of Maryland’s present total of 143. Russell Roberts, who has designed eight courses, is second behind Ault & Associates.

According to the National Golf Foundation (NGF), to keep up with demand for play projec-

Fig. 1

## MARYLAND GOLF COURSES TRENDS IN GOLF COURSE CONSTRUCTION

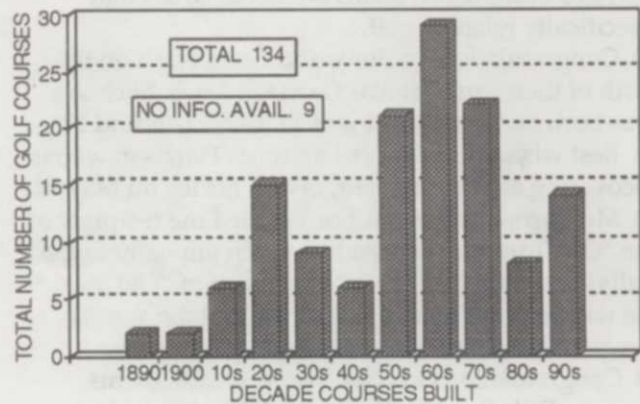


Fig. 2

## COUNTIES WITH THE MOST GOLF COURSES IN MARYLAND

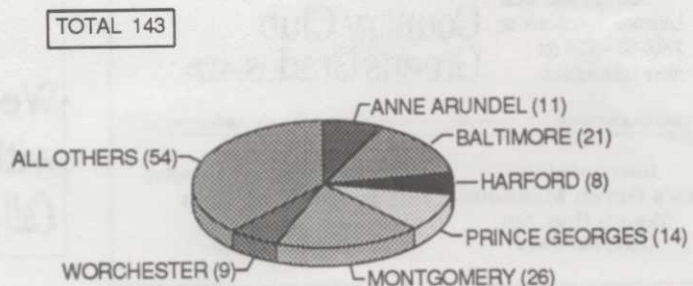


Fig. 3

TOP FIVE ARCHITECTS	
ARCHITECT	NUMBER OF COURSES BUILT
EDWARD B. AULT	31
RUSSELL ROBERTS	8
CHARLES HOOK	5
LINDSAY ERVIN	5
DONALD J. ROSS	4
ALL OTHERS	90
TOTAL	143

tions, many more golf courses need to be built. Before 1950 the demand was for private courses, and 78% of Maryland's courses were private. Through the 1960s and 1970s demand was about

equal for private and public facilities; however, since the 1980s demand has switched to the point that 67% of all new courses are public. The NGF feels this trend will continue. National studies of

1992 indicated that 81% of the golf courses opened as public facilities. Nine of the state's 14 courses constructed in the 1990s are open to the public. If this is any sign, then Maryland is trying to meet this future demand. It is to be hoped that this trend will continue through the remainder of the 1990s and beyond.

NOTES

1. Cornish, Geoffrey S.; Whitten, Ronald E. 1981. *The Golf Course*. The Rutledge Press, N.Y.
2. Beard, James B. 1982. *Turf Management for the Golf Course*. Macmillan Publishing Company, N.Y.
3. *Golf Business Today*, April 1993, Vol. 1, No. 2 pp. 13, 19.

Dieter, from page 1

plantings, the club has recently employed a horticulturist.

Lee has been an active member of MAAGCS since he came to the area to work with Dave Canavan at Bolling AFB Recreation Area in Warrenton. He has served on the board for more than 15 years and has risen through the offices twice to serve as president in 1973 and again in 1987. He was editor of the newsletter for six years and initiated the supporters list to provide revenue for professional printing. Lee's pastimes include photography and hunting and fishing. He's also an avid collector of golf history and memorabilia. His collection comprises more than 3,000 books, but his prize possession is the silver putter of Edward F. Riggs (of the banking family).

Lee, his wife Rita and their four boys have been familiar figures at association functions. He believes in supporting the association by both action and participation. He has missed only 10 meetings since he has been a Mid-Atlantic member and has attended all but two GCSAA annual meetings. Walter Montross, Jim Christy, Tom Knoll, and George Hoenig are all former assistants now in charge of area courses. Chris Dieter, who works with Chuck Thomson at the Fords Colony Golf Courses as the superintendent of the Gold Course is also his former employee—and his son. Lee's quite proud of these young men and hopes they took something away with them when as they continue their careers. If their success is any indication, Lee's new assistant, Stephen Marofsky, has a bright future.



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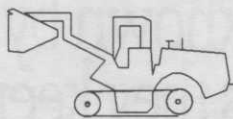
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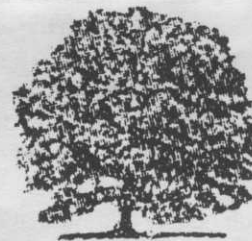


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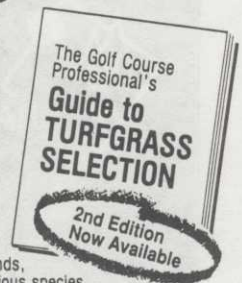
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## Golf Course Construction: Involve the Superintendent

The president of the American Society of Golf Course Architects has called on developers to involve golf course superintendents in the construction of their courses.

"We try to get a superintendent involved at the start of construction so he can act as a project liaison, help interpret plans for the contractor and make suggestions that will ease maintenance," said ASGCA president John Clark. "For example, if we create a design that is difficult to maintain, he can bring it to our attention while changes can still be made."

With the superintendent present from the start of the project, it becomes easier to maintain the course according to its design, Clark said.

"Working together during the design and construction phase enables the superintendent to learn the intent of the original design," he said. "As the golf course evolves, the superintendent can help ensure that the layout remains true to the architect's intent.

Education also enable a superintendent to become better acquainted with the purposes and perspectives of a golf course architect, Clark added.

"Being informed is 90 % of

understanding each other," he said. "The best ways to stay informed are through continuing education, attending conferences and exchanging information during construction."

Although few superintendents have the opportunity to be in on the

development of a course from the beginning, they can always check the original plans to learn the architect's design strategy, Clark said.

"We must look to the superintendent to make sure we don't forget about course maintenance. He should remind us that a slope we've designed has to be mowed twice a week."

"Architects also depend on the superintendent to monitor construction progress. The superintendent has a lot of authority during construction," said Clark.

Remodeling projects offer an ideal opportunity for superintendents and architects to work together. "One of the first things we do is get the superintendent and pro together to ask for their suggestions," said Clark. "They are the ones who are there everyday, so they know the course's strengths and weaknesses. We utilize this type of input to develop the master plan." *Adopted from an article in Golf Development Magazine.*

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