

# Turfgrass Matters



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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.