

Turfgrass Matters



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Mid-Atlantic Golf Course Superintendents Newsletter

Jim Meier to host April Meeting at Belle Haven CC in Alexandria, Virginia

April's meeting will be at Belle Haven Country Club in Alexandria with Jim Meier hosting.



Mid-Atlantic golfers play in some of the country's most historic locales. Belle Haven is an excellent example: in the 1600s an Indian village was located here; in the 1700s and 1800s it was the site of a large plantation. In fact, says Jim, "One thousand slaves are buried in the area of holes 4,5, and 6."

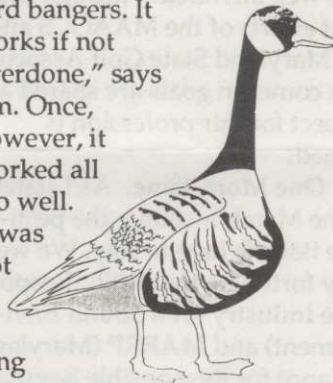
From 1861 to 1865 Ft. Willard, a union encampment, stood on a nearby hill. The remains can still be seen. Here, soldiers took potshots at tombstones. Notes Jim, "Occasionally, construction will bring up civil war bullets." So, you may want to look carefully before replacing your divots.

The first nine holes of this private, 635-member club, opened in September, 1924. Of the 19 greens, three are original. All others have been reconstructed since 1950; none is USGA mix. Recent construction includes five tees, a new driving range and athletic facility.

Jim's most pressing problem in the last couple of years has been ground that is too wet. To attack this problem, they have been busy

adding more drainage.

Another of his predicaments—being located very near a bird sanctuary—is keeping geese off the course. "My primary control is firing bird bangers. It works if not overdone," says Jim. Once, however, it worked all too well. It was not



long after George Bush's son moved in across the street. Jim fired his firecracker gun one morning in 1990, having forgotten to notify the Fairfax Police. Shortly, thereafter, he looked up to see the Secret Service and the county police coming from all directions. It was soon settled with Jim adding the Secret Service's phone number to his notification list.

Jim has been superintendent of Belle Haven for more than 15 years. Posts before that were at Garden City GC for Men (one year), Huntington G&CC (one year), and Congressional CC (four years). He is a graduate of the University of Georgia (BSA), the

University of Agriculture and Technological College at Farm, NY (AAS) and short courses at VPI. He also served in the Navy.

Dinner: Cocktails at 6:30; dinner at 7:30; \$30; formal. **Reservations a must!**

Directions: *From Baltimore:* After crossing the Wilson Bridge take first exit Fort Belvoir South (Rt. 1); stay in right lane—Rt 1 goes left, Hunt right. Take Fort Hunt. Go through three lights. Club is on left. *From Richmond/495:* Take 495/95E toward Baltimore. Exit onto Rt 1 south and follow then follow directions above.

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