

Turfgrass Matters



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Mid-Atlantic Golf Course Superintendents Newsletter

MAAGCS Annual Picnic to be held at Hobbits Glen GC on Tuesday, August 9

by Bill Neus

Hobbit's Glen GC is a semi-private, 18-hole facility that accommodates 55,000 rounds of golf annually. It is a division of a corporation call The Columbia Association that owns and operates all the athletic facilities and open space in the town of Columbia. This includes 22 pools, an indoor ice rink, 2 athletic clubs, 4 tennis clubs, boat docks, 1 (soon to be 2) golf courses, and almost 3,000 acres of open space. Our clubs accommodated over 1.5 million visits last year. We currently employ approximately 1700 people.

Hobbit's Glen is an Ed Ault-designed course—measuring 6,700 yards from the white tees and 7,000 yards from the blues—was opened in the summer of 1968 and has been host to exhibitions by Jack Nicklaus, Sam Snead, and Tom Wieskopf. Many holes have been dramatically changed over the last several years with the design assistance of Lindsay Ervin.

Obviously, our biggest challenge is excessive traffic. I haven't yet found anything I can spray for that. But also this year we were hard-hit with winter damage. Approximately 10% of our fairways, six complete tees and the poa on most of the greens went on an extended vacation. Needless to say, this has already been an interesting (read horren-

dous) year for all of us.

I am a graduate of The Institute of Applied Agriculture and have been at Hobbit's Glen for 14 years. Before that I was the

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superintendent at Fauquier Springs CC for four years, and two years as assistant at the Naval Academy GC. My wife's name is Lynne and we have three children.

We are currently building a new golf course called Fairway Hills on the old Allview GC site. It is designed by Ron Pritchard and is being built by the legendary Chip McDonald. It's ironic that Chip was an equipment operator for the company that built Hobbit's Glen. We decided not to hold that against him and he promised to get it right this time. Everybody deserves a second chance. At this time, seven holes are essentially complete and the opening will be in 1996. If anyone would ever like to take a look at the construction, I'd be more than happy to take you around. It's truly fascinating to see the quality, care and precision that Chip puts into his work.

Oops!! Gotta go!
Shop's on fire!

Golf: (see Golf Notes on page 2) Tee times available after 11:00.

Reservations a *must*. Call 410-730-5980.

Picnic: 4:00 to 8:00. All members and their families are invited. Swimming and tennis available. As usual, the elegant menu will include crabs, beer, hot dogs, hamburgers, corn-on-the-cob, and sodas. Clowns and other entertainment for the children. No reservations necessary, but bring a dessert or salad if you wish. Come early, stay late!

Directions: from DC - Take Rt. 29N past Columbia to Rt. 108. Go west on 108 for approximately 3 miles. Then turn left on Harpers Farm Rd. Take second right on Willowbottom Dr. Clubhouse entrance will be several blocks on right. From Baltimore - Take Rt. 70 to Rt 29S to Rt. 108, then follow above directions.

Inside this Issue

President's Message _____	2
Golf Notes _____	3
Cphoon's Corner _____	4
Summary Report of the Recreation Advisory Com- mittee Re: ADA _____	6
Coping with Change _____	7