

Turfgrass Matters



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Mid-Atlantic Golf Course Superintendents Newsletter

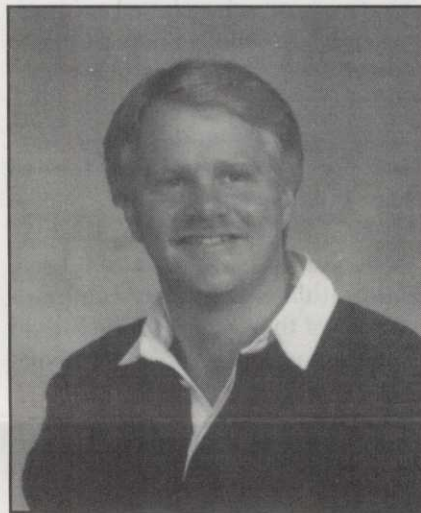
Donn Dietrich to Host November 8 Meeting at Maryland Golf & CC

Four-man scramble to start at noon

by *Donn Dietrich*

Maryland Golf and Country Club is an 18-hole club located in Bel Air, Maryland. The golf course's founder, Larry MacPhail, before retirement, was highly involved in baseball. Throughout his life, he managed and owned three baseball teams, the Cincinnati Reds, the Brooklyn Dodgers and the New York Yankees (1933-1947). He was one of the few owners to win championships in both leagues—the Dodgers in 1941 and the Yankees in 1947. He was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame for his innovative and pioneering ideas, the three for which he is probably remembered most are: pioneering night baseball by installing lights in 1935; hiring the first radio announcer to broadcast games, and originating plane travel for the teams so they could compete outside their immediate cities. The other item he was instrumental in setting up was the first player contracts and benefit packages. So this is where it all started. I wonder what he would think of the multi-million dollar contracts that are standard today.

At age 57 Larry MacPhail retired from baseball and moved to Bel Air to breed race horses. He bought a farm called Glenangus and in 1960 decided to build a golf



course. The original farm house is still located on the rolling hills that overlook the golf course. The current owners still allow horses to roam but found it more profitable to sell lots and build houses which now surround the golf course.

The golf course was designed by two architects. William F. Gorden, who constructed many other courses in Maryland and Pennsylvania, designed the front nine which opened May 27, 1961. The back nine, designed and built by Russell Roberts, opened in August 1961. The golf course plays 6630 yards from the white markers and has a slope rating of 133.

In the ten years I've been superintendent at Maryland Golf we have completed the automatic irrigation system, renovated and

enlarged the ponds, installed new bridges and cart paths. I am currently working with the legendary Chip McDonald in totally renovating the bunkers. This has been a very exciting project for the club and has not

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Golf: 12 noon, shotgun. Call the pro shop by Friday November 4 at 410-838-5022. **Cost:** \$15 includes cart and entry fee.

Dinner: Cocktails at 5:30, dinner at 6:30. Coat and tie. **Cost:** \$30, cash bar.

Directions: From I-95 north toward New York, take exit 77-B toward Bel Air on route 24. Take a right at the first light—route 924. Go approximately 4 miles to East MacPhail Rd.; turn right. Go about 3 miles to club entrance on the left at the top of the hill. (About 45 minutes north of Baltimore.)

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only made the bunkers play consistently but has, through design and uniform sand color, increased visual appeal from the tee. This year we are scheduled to build new permanent restrooms on the course, install an emergency call box system throughout the course, rebuild some ladies' tees, and make some improvements to the maintenance shop area.

I started in the golf business working for Grant Pensinger CGCS at Greenspring in 1977 as a summer job. Grant talked me into pursuing a career as a golf course superintendent, and in 1978 I entered the U of M Institute of Applied Agriculture. After graduating I went to work for Bill Black CGCS and spent two years at Congressional Country Club.

In 1982 I accepted the assistant job at Leisure World and in 1984 moved back to my Baltimore roots as the assistant at Hillendale Country Club. In 1985 when Ron Hall CGCS decided to move south I became superintendent at Maryland Golf and Country Club. One of the many great aspects of working here is the staff. Within the maintenance department, I have six full-time people who share 90

years of golf course experience between them, and an assistant, David Boniface, who makes my job a lot easier. I also have the benefit of working with a golf pro of the caliber of Paul Haviland who has been here since the club opened—34 years—and, who, along with the other staff, is a pleasure to work with.

I became certified at the Dallas convention and spent three years (1989-1991) on the BOD of the Mid-Atlantic working with some of the most dedicated people I know.

I've been married for 11 years. My wife Torri works two days a week as a social work consultant for Baltimore County. We have two children—Hanna, 5, and Elli, 3. Now that both are in school and involved in other activities, our schedule has become pretty busy. In her spare time my wife volunteers for local charities, plays tennis and walks. I serve on the advisory council for parks and planning for the Town of Bel Air, helping to plan a new park and recreation area in the community. I also enjoy playing golf, and try to get out as much as possible. My goal is to play golf with John Drew.

Maybe one day.



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