

SUPERINTENDENT PROFILE

Nick Vance, CGCS



Nick Vance, CGCS has been in the golf course industry in this area so long that most would think that he was born to it. Tain't necessarily so. Nick took the long, hard, & round-about route to where he is today. His college classes left him headed for a career in accounting. A few years of indoor work solidified his resolve to find employment of a less confining nature. Serendipity brought him to Laytonville Golf Course in 1975 and into The Business for life. Nick worked his way up the ladder, earning the Superintendent's post after two years as the assistant. He then ran Laytonville for sixteen years thereafter. Nick then went on to Falls Road, then two years later, he moved up to Mt. Airy to grow in the Rattlewood Golf Course. Rattlewood opened in June 1995.

But superintending is only half of the story. About the time Nick became Nick Vance, CGCS, in 1983, he began what has become almost fifteen years on the MAAGCS Board of Directors. 1992 saw Nick's position on the Board augmented by voting delegate status to the GCSAA. Most recently, Nick is also serving on the GCSAA tournament committee.

All this and a family too. Nick married his wife Karen in 1980. They have four children between them, from previous marriages. All four live and work in the area, with Nick's son, Jeff, assisting the superintendent, Tom Ritter—at Laytonville G.C. If you can't get a hold of Nick some sunny weekend, redirect your search from the high country of Mt. Airy to the Chester River. He and Karen have pursued their passion for the water on a motor yacht that they have moored there for ten years. And counting ... ■



Thomas Tuttle



Education has proven a valuable asset in the fast-paced industry of golf turf. Tom Tuttle, of River Downs Golfers Club, has fueled his career liberally with T & E from the very beginning. Tom's graduation from the University of Maryland Institute of Applied Agriculture in 1990 only began the cycle of learning.

Formally, he has attended GCSAA seminars covering topics in environmental concerns, pesticide application & safety, and more important than ever, some of the administrative aspects of golf course management. Tom began these seminars even before he set foot outside the U of MD.

Less formally, but no less importantly, Tom has enjoyed some notable on-the-job training & trainers. As a spray technician at the Chevy Chase Club, Tom worked under first George Renault, CGCS, then Sean Remington: both important cogs in the collective efforts of regional—and national—golf course superintendents as well as fine course managers in their own right. His first assistant's position came under one of the Mid-Atlantic's more visible and progressive superintendents, Bruce Cadenelli of Caves Valley Golf Club. Tom was lucky enough to be immersed in the initial implementation of some of the environmental programs that we are just now beginning to read about. Most recently, in his current head post at River Downs Golfers Club, Tom Tuttle has tackled the major OJT challenge of his first grow-in. This grow-in was also the first for GolfSouth Management, RDGC's owner, that utilized exclusively cool season grasses. This summer's weather may give him a well deserved opportunity to slow down and enjoy the fruits of his labors.

That relaxation will most certainly include his blossoming family. Some in the Mid-Atlantic may already be familiar with the landscaping design work of Tom's wife Colleen Sundholm. Most will be equally unfamiliar (unless they already read this month's News & Notes) with Tom and Colleen's new son, James, born at the end of July. Both Tom and Colleen are very active outdoor people, but the recent expansion of their family may encourage more leisure time spent indoors in their home in Westminster, Maryland. We wish them well and look forward to a fine afternoon of golf with the new father at his golf course as MAAGCS crowns its annual champion for 1996. ■