

News from Paul Masimore !!!

So far I have found very similar maintenance issues to the ones we have in Maryland. The climate is very similar to ours. Today I am in the mountains at a course built on the side of a mountain. The cost for this course had to be up there. Even though the course is around 3 to 4 thousand feet it is very warm and very humid. We have Zoysia fairways and rough here with bluegrass tees and pennecross greens. Our main problem and immediate concern of the owners are, of course, the greens. The course is 4 or 5 years old with no thatch, very poor rooting and what appears to be summer stress syndrome. I have offered some suggestions and we will be implementing some right away and experimenting with others. The owner is very concerned about pleasing the member and improving these greens. Membership for this course is in the \$600,000 range so you can understand his concerns. Crystal Valley is an 18 hole facility. The owner was a doctor who owns a large hospital in the Seoul. Words can not describe the beautiful for this golf course. I will try to get pictures back when I figure out my new camera and laptop. Technology is very big here so this old fart has some catching up to do.

We have a full time staff of 21 at this club with 15 or so temporary labor brought in each day. My days are 10 to 12 hours with touring the courses 3 times a day for inspections with meetings after each inspection. We then meet with the owners staff 1 or 2 times each day. Conditioning issues are very intense here as you might expect with the cost of membership.

I just found out over lunch with the owner and club president that the special pines planted around the course cost between \$50,000 to \$200,000 to find, dig up and transplant to the golf course. They number in the hundreds and line every hole on the course. I finally took some photos and hope to find time to download them to my laptop. As soon as I do I will pass them along.

I do not have a permanent address as I am spending two days at each course and my cell phone does not work here either; I have to send it back for adjustments. I will be provided a cell phone from here soon. When I get settled I will pass my number on to those who are interested.

I have been asked about construction experience and it looks like I will be involved in that process today. We are following up on a bid for renovating some greens at another club. Right now my working life could not be better.



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