


# Army Navy Country Club Greenkeepers/Golf Course Superintendents

(Revised 1/2/2021)

**Editor's Note:** Developing this list proved to be a real challenge due to the paucity of reference material. With one exception, no Golf and Green (or its predecessors) Committee minutes were available prior to 1957 and the newspapers did not make mention of "greenkeeper" personnel changes like was normally the case for the Head Golf Professional. As the result there are several "holes" in this listing. I have done my best to represent the record, but you will note several places where I have annotated a date with a question mark (?). If any of the readers of this list have additional information/insight (not to mention pictures), please contact the ANCC Foundation.

## Arlington

- **MAJ Richard Newman**, Sep 1928- Feb 1932
    - Architect of Original 18 Hole Course
    - First ANCC General Manager
    - Greenkeeper Duties Apparently Part of GM Duties (he did everything else). No action was taken to hire full-time greenkeeper until Newman's departure
    - Agronomy experience shown by these two articles:
      - "Buffalo Grass Fairways Look Promising, Says Major" *Golfdom*, April 1928, Page 42
      - Mention in the *American Golfer*, March 1927, Page 53 "On Kansas Fairways" on nursery of Colombia and Washington bent grass at Fort Riley, KS.
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- Richard D. Newman
- **Lionel G. Walker** (April 1932 – June 1932)
    - ANCC Golf Professional (June 1931 – October 1932)
    - Temporary Appointment as Greenkeeper in April 1932 with extra \$20/month extra compensation.<sup>1</sup>
    - In June 1932 for reasons unknown, Walker was not only relieved of his greenkeeper responsibilities, but and an earlier approval of a \$50 per month salary increase was withdrawn.<sup>2</sup>
  - **Mr. Mackey** (July/August 1932)
    - July 1932: COL Danforth (Golf Committee Chair) forwarded a letter to the Club Treasurer advising of his hiring Mr. Mackey as the golf professional and greenkeeper.<sup>3</sup>
    - By August 1932 Mr. Mackey "had left the services of the Club"<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Minutes of Executive Committee meeting of April 27, 1932.

<sup>2</sup> Minutes of Executive Committee meeting of June 8, 1932

<sup>3</sup> Minutes of Executive Committee meeting of July 6, 1932

<sup>4</sup> Minutes of Executive Committee meeting of August 24, 1932

- Unlike the employment and release of other early ANCC golf professionals, there is no mention in either *Washington Post* or *Evening Star*.
  - Because of his short tenure, he is not included on the Head Golf Professional list.
- **John S. Connolly**, Sept 1932- April 1936
    - Hired from the U.S. Department of Agriculture where he served as an Agronomist.
    - Born 1910, i.e. he was only 22 years old when hired by ANCC.
    - Resigned effective May 1, 1936 to take Worthington Equipment Franchise.<sup>5</sup>  
Note: Worthington had patent on “gang of mowers”.
    - Developer/Part-Owner of Fairfax CC (ANCC Fairfax) 1940-1956.
  - **Mr. Gore**, May 1936 – November 1936
    - April 1936: Hired from Chevy Chase Country Club<sup>6</sup>
    - November 1936: Discharged by Golf Committee<sup>7</sup>
  - **Mr. McCarthy**, Nov 1936 - Feb 1939?
    - November 1936: Hired by Golf Committee.<sup>8</sup>
    - Exact Departure Date Unknown. Minutes do not reflect his departure but mention the salary of his relief.<sup>9</sup>
  - **Walter W. Cosby**, May 1939 –1947
    - Hired effective May 1, 1939.<sup>10</sup>
    - Previously the Greenkeeper at the Homestead.<sup>11</sup>
    - Inducted into Army 3/21/1944.<sup>12</sup>
      - Club promised that his job would be kept open until his discharge.
      - Return date unknown
    - Left for Greenbriar in 1947.<sup>13</sup>
  - **“Hip Windsor”** (Foreman/Interim Greenkeeper?) 1947? – May 1950
    - Looking to hire Maintenance Engineer-Greenkeeper<sup>14</sup>
    - “... a greenkeeper should be employed, and that Mr. Windsor should be retained at his present salary.”<sup>15</sup>



Walter W. Cosby

<sup>5</sup> Minutes of Executive Committee meeting of April 13, 1936

<sup>6</sup> Minutes of Executive Committee meeting of April 27, 1936

<sup>7</sup> Minutes of Executive Committee meeting of November 23, 1936

<sup>8</sup> Minutes of Executive Committee meeting of November 23, 1936

<sup>9</sup> Minutes of Executive Committee meeting of February 27, 1939

<sup>10</sup> Minutes of Executive Committee meeting of April 3, 1939

<sup>11</sup> *Virginia Chronicle*, April 14, 1939

<sup>12</sup> Minutes of Executive Committee meeting of March 16, 1944

<sup>13</sup> *Greenbrier Gadabout*, March 19, 1960 (received from Robert Conte, The Greenbrier Historian, March 28, 2018)

<sup>14</sup> Minutes of Executive Committee meeting of March 21, 1950 and April 18, 1950 and Board of Governors meeting of April 19, 1950

<sup>15</sup> Minutes of Executive Committee meeting of April 7, 1950

- **James E. Thomas**, May 1950 – April 1966
  - Formerly of Farmington CC
  - Given 18 Month Contact at \$6,000/year commencing 5/15/50.<sup>16</sup>
  - 1951 Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents Vice-President
  - Relieved of Head Greenkeeper duties and took over providing detailed supervision at Fairfax<sup>17</sup> until his retirement on November 1, 1966<sup>18</sup>.



James E. Thomas

- **Dell Hamersley**, April 1966 – November 1972
  - Hired in April 1966<sup>19</sup> from NAS Patuxent River MD.<sup>20</sup>
  - Announced intention to resign effective 10/31/71,<sup>21</sup> but did not actually depart until 11/10/72<sup>22</sup>

- **Dave Fairbanks**, January 1973 – October 1989
  - Hired effective 1/19/73<sup>23</sup>

- **Bob Wilbur**, October 1989 – March 31, 2019
  - Assistant Superintendent (March 26, 1979 – October 1989)
  - Previously at Farmington CC
  - Announced intention to retire effective March 31, 2019



Bob Wilbur

- **Mike King**, April 2019 – Present
  - Superintendent at Mount Vernon CC (2013-2019)
  - Graduate of University of Maryland
  - Assistant Superintendent Robert Trent Jones Golf Club
  - Piedmont Club (1999-2006) (Club Corp)
  - Potomac Shores (2006-2010) (Club Corp)
  - Fauquier Springs Athletic Field Superintendent (2010-2012)
  - VGCSA Environmental Stewardship Award (2016)



Mike King

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<sup>16</sup> Minutes of Executive Committee meeting of May 2, 1950

<sup>17</sup> Minutes of Board of Governors' meeting of April 27, 1966

<sup>18</sup> Minutes of Board of Governors' meeting of October 19, 1966 and Annual Membership meeting minutes of November 7, 1966.

<sup>19</sup> Minutes of Board of Governors' meeting of April 27, 1966

<sup>20</sup> Annual Membership meeting minutes of November 7, 1966

<sup>21</sup> Minutes of Executive Committee meeting of April 27, 1971

<sup>22</sup> Minutes of Board of Governors. Meeting of November 15, 1972

<sup>23</sup> Minutes of Golf & Green Committee meeting of January 15, 1973

# Fairfax

John S. Connolly acquired the property and began developing his Fairfax Country Club Estates in early 1940. From the beginning he enlisted very talented individuals in this endeavor. His golf course architect was Robert Trent Jones, and his golf course superintendent was Bill Glover.

- **Willis Hiram “Bill” Glover.** Fairfax Country Club: 1940 – July 30, 1953.
  - Entered the field of golf course maintenance after completing a degree in Forestry at Syracuse University.<sup>24</sup>
  - Following stints at Oak Hill CC (Rochester, NY) and Shawnee CC (Shawnee-on-Delaware, PA, he came to Fairfax Country Club in 1940 to serve as John Connolly’s owner representative during course construction.<sup>25</sup>
  - Upon completion of course construction, transitioned to serve as the golf course superintendent.
  - It is highly probable that Glover, the married father of three, was exempt from military service during World War II and assumed the role of course manager during (Major) John Connolly’s tour in the Army.
  - Glover was a leader in the golf course superintendents’ community, serving his second term as the director of the Golf Course Superintendents’ Association when he passed. He had also served as the president and secretary-treasurer of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents and was the first president of the Pocono Turfgrass Association (1936).<sup>26</sup>
  - Member of the Pennsylvania State University advisor council for turf research (15 years) and the USGA Green Section Committee.<sup>27</sup>
  - Died of a cerebral hemorrhage while at the Fairfax course on July 30, 1953, at the age of 49.<sup>28</sup>
- Golf Course Superintendent (1953 – 1958).
  - It is not known who became the superintendent following Bill Glover’s death. Although he probably did not have the time to do so, it is possible that John Connolly (the ANCC Arlington superintendent 1932-1936) took on this responsibility, at least temporarily.
  - Likewise, it is unknown who served as the superintendent during the two years (1956-1958) the Fairfax Country Club syndicate owned and operated the golf course.



<sup>24</sup> *Golfdom* Magazine, September 1953, “Counsell, Glover, Noted Superintendents, Die.”

<sup>25</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>26</sup> *Golfdom* Magazine, June 1955, “Swinging Around Golf”, Herb Graffis, page 3

<sup>27</sup> *Golfdom* Magazine, September 1953, “Counsell, Glover, Noted Superintendents, Die.”

<sup>28</sup> *Ibid*

ANCC acquired Fairfax Country Club on September 2, 1958. Initially the head greenkeeper at Arlington was responsible for both Arlington and Fairfax. The Golf and Green Committee noted the shortcomings of this practice and recommended that a separate head greenkeeper for Fairfax be included in the 1965 budget.<sup>29</sup>

- **“Hip” Windsor**, Dates Unknown (Period included April 1961)
  - Identified as Fairfax greenkeeper as part of an announcement that he underwent an emergency operation for ulcers.<sup>30</sup>
  - Undoubtedly worked at Fairfax under the supervision of James E. Thomas, who was responsible for both golf courses
- **Charlie Mock**, November 1966 (estimate) – December 1992
  - Probably took over at Fairfax upon retirement of James E. Thomas.
  - Identified as greenkeeper in the November 1967 Green Committee Minutes.
  - Requested relief of full responsibilities at Fairfax due to failing health in August/September 1992.<sup>31</sup>
  - In August 1992 Charlie was identified as 40-year employee.<sup>32</sup> That is consistent with Keith Beaver’s statement that had Charlie working for John Connolly at Fairfax Country Club (the name of ANCC Fairfax until ANCC acquisition). Shortly thereafter the Club presented Charlie with the 1985 pick-up truck he used in his job at Fairfax.<sup>33</sup>
  - Continued as a Project 5 consultant<sup>34</sup>. Per Keith Beaver, Charlie continued to drive mowers until his retirement June 30, 1996.<sup>35</sup>
- **Tim Norris**, 02 January 1993 – 16 April 2005
  - Hired Effective 1 January 1993.<sup>36</sup>
  - Upon his retirement, the Board of Governors passed resolution thanking him for service.<sup>37</sup>
- **Carmen Giannini**, 16 April 2005 – November 2020
  - Hired as Assistant Superintendent November 1995<sup>38</sup>
  - Promoted to Fairfax Golf Course Superintendent April 20
  - Accepted position as Golf Course Superintendent at Fairfax County’s Twin Lakes Golf Courses shortly after his departure from ANCC Fairfax.



Tim Norris



Carmen Giannini

<sup>29</sup> Minutes of Golf & Green Committee meeting of July 16, 1964

<sup>30</sup> Minutes of the Board of Governors’ meeting of April 26, 1961

<sup>31</sup> Minutes of the Executive Committee meeting of August 13, 1992, and the Golf & Green meeting minutes of September 15, 1992.

<sup>32</sup> Minutes of the Executive Committee meeting of August 13, 1992

<sup>33</sup> Minutes of the Executive Committee meeting of December 17, 1992

<sup>34</sup> Ibid

<sup>35</sup> Minutes of Golf and Green Committee meeting of June 12, 1996

<sup>36</sup> Minutes of Golf and Green Committee meeting of November 18, 1992

<sup>37</sup> Minutes of the Board of Governors’ meeting of March 30, 2005

<sup>38</sup> Minutes of Golf and Green Committee meeting of November 15, 1995

- **Joe Betcher.** November 2020 – Present
  - Grew up in a town 30 minutes south of Minneapolis/St. Paul MN.
  - Received a B.S. in Soil Science with an emphasis on Turfgrass Management from the University of Wisconsin.
  - In 2011 completed an internship at the Robert Trent Jones Golf Club in Gainesville, VA which led to his employment as the Assistant Superintendent after graduation.
  - Served as the Golf Course Superintendent at Hartefield National from December 2016 – November 2020.



Joe Betcher