



The 13th International Turfgrass
Research Conference



13th ITRC Technical Tour Information Sheet

Baltusrol Golf Club



Baltusrol Golf Club (<http://www.baltusrol.org/Club/Scripts/Home/home.asp>) was founded in 1895, in Springfield NJ, on a large tract of farmland previously owned by a Mr. Baltus Roll. The name is significant, as Mr. Roll was murdered on the property, and the trial of the accused killer was sensationalized in local and national newspapers in the early 1800's. After the trial, the rolling hills overlooking the property came to be known by area residents as Baltusrol mountain, and the golf club was given the haunting and

evocative name that had long been a part of local lore.

The original 18 hole course, called the Old Course, evolved through several variations and hosted 5 USGA national championships, including the 1903 and 1915 U.S. Opens. In 1918, Golden Age golf architect A.W. Tillinghast was hired to build a second course to complement the Old Course; however, Tillinghast recommended that the Old Course be rebuilt in order to create two new courses, the Upper and Lower, which he referred to as the “Dual Courses,” stating at the time that he would make them “equally sought after as a matter of preference”. Construction began in 1919 and the courses opened in 1922. Tillinghast continued to work on the layouts of the courses through the 1920s and into the 1930s in the hope of earning a major championship. The Lower Course hosted the 1926 U.S. Amateur, while the new Upper Course made its debut on the national stage for the 1936 U.S. Open.

Together, the famed Upper and Lower courses have hosted 16 national championships, including seven U.S. Opens, two Women’s U.S. Opens, and two PGA Championships. Past Major Champions at Baltusrol include Jack Nicklaus (U.S. Open victories in 1967 and 1980) and Phil Mickelson (PGA Championship in 2005). Baltusrol Golf Club will host the U.S. Junior Amateur Championship in 2018.

Meet the Turf Manager:

Mr. Mark Kuhns has been Director of Grounds at Baltusrol since 1999. Prior to his tenure at Baltusrol, Mr. Kuhns was the Superintendent at Oakmont (Pa.) Country Club (1991-99); Laurel Valley Golf Club in Ligonier, Pa. (1979-91); and Ligonier (Pa.) Country Club (1977-79). Mr. Kuhns is a graduate of the Penn State Turfgrass Program, and has served as the President of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (2009-10).