

## Cyprian Keyes another Mungeam creation for Bay State

BOYLSTON, Mass. — Mark Mungeam, a partner with Uxbridge, Mass.-based Cornish, Silva and Mungeam (CSM), has taken a typically ornery site and carved another stunning golf course from the rock-strewn New England landscape.

Cyprian Keyes Golf Club, an upscale daily-fee course here in the heart of Central Massachusetts, opened for play Aug. 11. Named for the gentleman who settled the land some 250 years ago, Cyprian Keyes offers 18 holes of first-rate, often-spectacular golf in addition to a 9-hole, par-3 course.

CSM is certainly no stranger to New England and its difficult terrain. With partner Brian Silva, Mungeam designed Shaker Hills Golf Club in Harvard, Mass., an extremely tough routing and construction project — but worth the trouble. Rated the 4th best course in Massachusetts by Golfweek, Shaker Hills was also named by Golf Digest as the second best public course to open in 1991.

Here at Cyprian Keyes, a full 50 acres on the 230-acre site were classified as wetlands, meaning they were off limits to Mungeam and his construction team. Mungeam's inventive routing also set aside 11 acres for the

## Q&A: Mungeam Continued from previous page

operated course on a former pasture. We need inexpensive, public golf courses like that. Some of those places are being lost and not replaced. As designers and developers of golf courses, it's important we work to make those places available. For example, we're doing a not-for-profit junior golf academy at the Links at Hiawatha. We donated our services for the 3-hole course because we feel strongly about this issue.

GCN. Whose design work do you admire?

MM: Of the older designers, Tillinghast, Mackenzie and Ross - the usual suspects - but also some lesser-known architects like [Wayne] Stiles and [William] Flynn ... Of those working today, I admire Pete Dye. He changed the direction of design and continues to influence it. As for the other designers, I really don't get out and play other courses. And I refuse to evaluate work from pictures. Architects don't necessarily do this, but clients will ooh and ahh at pictures and say, "I kinda like how that looks." That's dangerous because a picture doesn't speak to playability and strategy. Aesthetics are important and it may be more important in terms of marketing these days. But it's not the end-all, or shouldn't be. GOLF COURSE NEWS

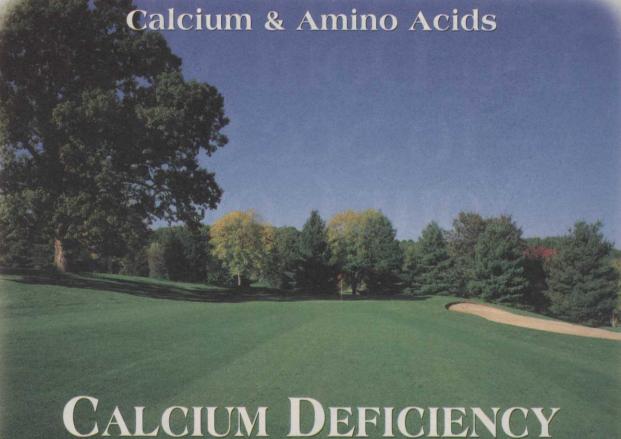
marbled salamander, a rare and endangered species that maintains a breeding ground on the course.

Yet the soil conditions here in Boylston proved most difficult of all. "The site was really deficient in soils," said Mungeam. "We conducted quite a bit of blasting and moved 35,000 cubic yards of rock. We were digging holes everywhere, trying to find soil to cover [the rock]. Cyprian is certainly a rugged piece of land, with a course to match. But it's also a very peaceful setting. You won't find a more beautiful environment for golf."

The par-3 course, Mungeam's first, occupies an even rockier piece of land. Yet this terrain lent itself well to a short course, he explained: "Because of the rock and the interesting contour, the par-3 course can be played on the ground or through the air. There are lots of opportunities to play angles and slopes, bump and run. It's really a fun nine holes of golf."

There are four sets of tees at Cyprian Keyes. The signature 11th, for example, plays 210 yards from the tips and 156 from the forward tee box. "The wind really blows up there," explained Mungeam.

Further afield, Mungeam recently finished a major redesign of the North Course at Olympia Fields (Ill.) Country Club, site of this summer's USGA Senior Open. He currently directs CSM projects in Monmouth County, N.J. (36 holes plus a six-hole teaching facility) and Waterville Valley, N.H., where 18 holes are under construction.



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