



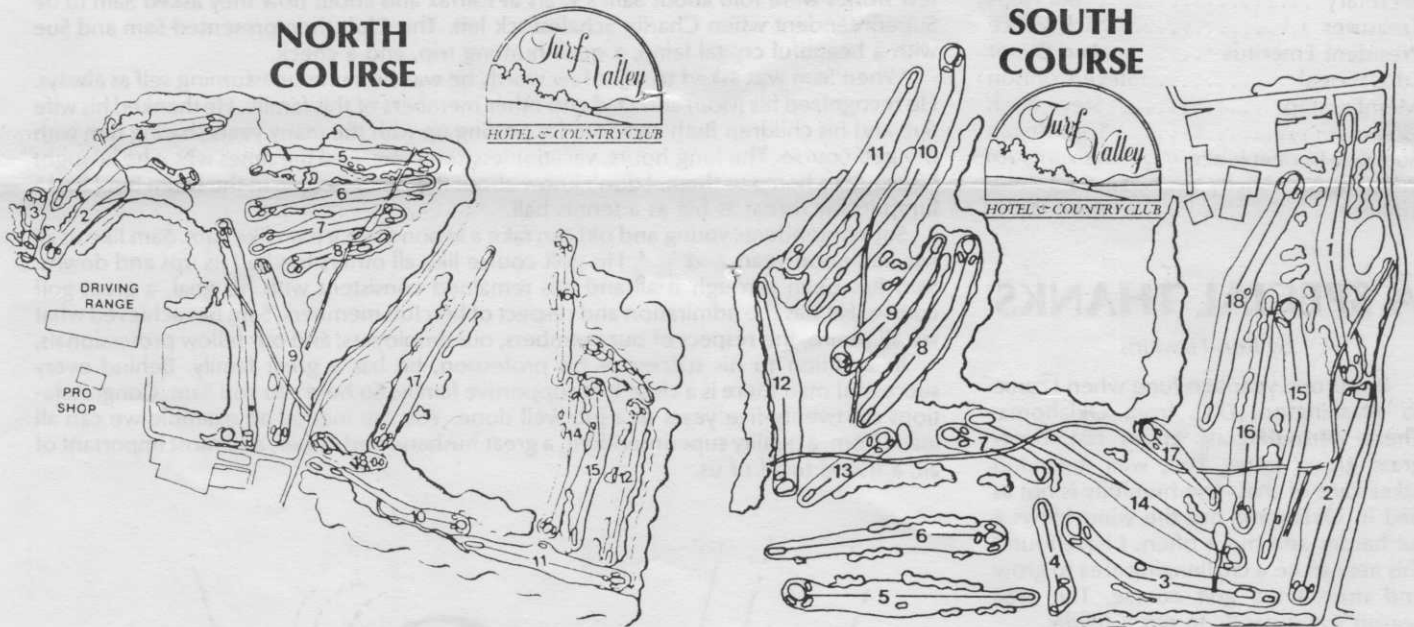
Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents NEWSLETTER



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DECEMBER - ELECTION MEETING - TURF VALLEY COUNTRY CLUB

The Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents will meet at the Turf Valley Hotel and Country Club on Tuesday the thirteenth of December. This is the annual election meeting. Our host for the meeting is Bill Blackert. He has been Superintendent at the club for the last sixteen years. He graduated from the Turf program at the Institute of Applied Agriculture at Maryland in 1967. Some of Bills' fellow graduates in that class (the first) were: Wayne Evans, Dave Cammarota, Craig Spotswood, and Mike McKenzie. Bill went on to receive his Bachelors Degree in Agronomy from Maryland in 1971. Before becoming the Assistant Superintendent at Turf Valley in 1972 Bill worked as a Research Agronomist at the U.S.D.A. in Beltsville. He worked with George Riddle as his Assistant before taking over as Superintendent.

Bill and his wife Elizabeth live on a small farm in central Howard County. They have two children, Bill 16 and Beth 13. They live in a charming old home that has been in his wife's family since 1732.

Founded in 1957, Turf Valley, a privately owned club, has had three owners in its thirty year history. The present owners, Nicholas B. Mangione and family, bought the club in 1978. Under the auspices of Mr. Mangione, the club has undergone numerous improvements and expansions during the past decade. The addition of automatic irrigation to 18 holes and the enlargement of numerous tees as well as the driving range, along with the aesthetic enhancement created by the addition of trees and thousands of flowers are among the many improvements made to the golf course. In order to better serve a rapidly growing membership, Mr. Mangione has also overseen the

renovation and enlargement of the clubhouse, the building of a new Pro Shop, and the construction of a new cart storage facility which houses 175 golf carts.

Although all of the improvements made during the Mangione tenure have been impressive, none has made a greater impact than the recent construction of a 20 million dollar hotel and conference center. Opened in July of 1988, this newest facility boasts 173 rooms, 10 suites, 6 conference rooms and 2 restaurants. In conjunction with the hotel, two tennis courts, a pool, parking lots and a new putting green were also constructed. The Turf Valley maintenance crew was responsible for all of the landscaping, grading, seeding and cross-tie wall installation around the hotel area.

Turf Valley Hotel and Country Club will continue to expand next year by adding another 18 hole course to the 36 holes which presently exist. The new course will be built in two stages of 9 holes each. Hopefully, the first nine holes will open in either the fall of 1989 or the spring of 1990.

At this time, Turf Valley is the "home" of over 1000 golf members who, along with over 200 yearly outings, generate an astounding 95,000 plus rounds of golf annually.

The maintenance of the courses at Turf Valley includes mowing the greens five times a week at a height of 5/32 of an inch. The greens are also topdressed six times a year as well as aerified in both spring and fall.

The tees at Turf Valley are mowed three times a week at 3/4 of an inch while fairways are mowed an equal number of times at a height of 7/8 of an inch.

Continued on page 3