

Turfgrass Matters



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Mid-Atlantic Golf Course Superintendents Newsletter

1991 MAAGCS Championship to be held at Breton Bay on October 8

by *Bernie Beavan*

Overlooking Breton Bay and the Potomac River is Breton Bay Golf and Country Club, a semi-private, 18-hole golf course located in Leonardtown, Md. The facility also includes four tennis courts and a new swimming pool complex. Currently the club has 206 golfing memberships and 317 total memberships, averaging about 23,000 rounds of golf per year.

The course was built, owned and operated by Mr. Henry T. Waring as part of his housing development until 1982 when the membership formed Breton Bay Recreation, Inc. and bought the facility through the sale of 450 shares of stock.

The facility was operated as a private club until 1985 when the stockholders decided to go "semi-private" and take advantage of the golf boom.

Since this time, we have been able to make some major improvements such as updating the golf car and equipment fleets, building a new maintenance facility in 1989 and constructing a new pool complex in 1990. All but a few of the 52 bunkers have been renovated in the past three years and we are hoping for cart path installation in the near future.

The course measures 6933 yards from the blue tees and 6463 yards from the whites with a course rating of 71.2 and a 119

slope rating from the white.

The greens are primarily Penncross bentgrass with a small encroachment of Poa, and are mowed at 3/16" six days per week, tees are perennial ryegrass and common Bermuda and are mowed at 5/8" three times per week. Fairways are also perennial rye and common Bermuda and are mowed at 7/8" twice a week.

The irrigation system is an old Skinner system and because it is completely manual and the fact that we don't have sufficient water, the fairways are at Mother Nature's mercy for a good part of the summer and fall. We have, however, been pushing the common Bermuda through fertilization the last couple of years with pretty good success.

Bernie Beavan has been superintendent of Breton Bay for the past six years. Prior to that he was superintendent at Chesapeake Country Club for four years after assisting Mike Claffey there for the previous three years. In 1979 he

received his certificate in Turfgrass and Golf Course Management from the Institute of Applied Agriculture, and became a CGCS in February 1990. Bernie is a board member of the Maryland Turfgrass Council.

Bernie and his wife Shawn have two children, Danielle, seven and Brian, four.

Directions: Breton Bay is 45 miles south of the Washington Beltway. From D.C., take Rte. 5 south through Waldorf to Rte 243 (McDonald's on right). Turn right and go 1.5 miles to Bull Rd. Turn left, go 1.5 miles. Golf course is on the right.

From Baltimore: Take Rte 3 south to Rte 301 south to Waldorf. Turn left in Waldorf onto Rte 5 south and follow directions above.

Dinner will be at the Old Breton Inn. Cost: \$25. Open bar during the cocktail hour. Cocktails at 6 p.m., dinner at 7 p.m. For dinner reservations call 301-381-0030. For tee times beginning at 10:30 call 301-475-2300. *Note:* dress for dinner will be casual.

