

Turfgrass Matters



October 1993, vol. 45, no. 8

Mid-Atlantic Golf Course Superintendents Newsletter

MAAGCS Annual Championship Tourney to be held at Caves Valley GC October 12

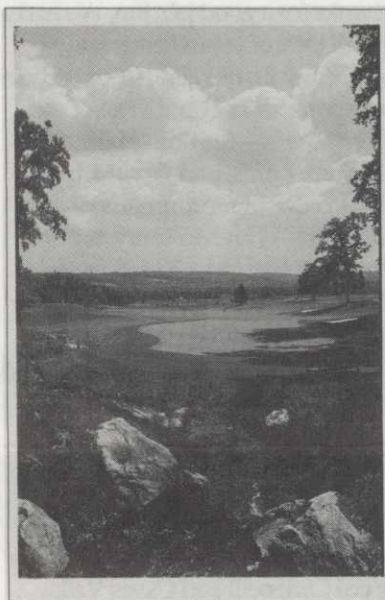
The MAAGCS Annual Golf Tournament will be held at Caves Valley Golf Club on October 12, with superintendent Bruce Cadenelli as host.

Caves Valley is a private club set on 962 acres of pristine valley and forest land in Maryland's hunt country. The 18-hole course is 6,942 yards with a par of 71. The short course, composed of two par 4s and a par 3, is used for practice and warming up. "The consortium that established [Caves Valley] wanted to create a course so extraordinary that Baltimore would be renowned in golf for this one facility much as it is for Fort McHenry, Johns Hopkins University and the National Aquarium," reported Dick Slay in the Washington Times. "The founding investors...envisioned...a golf reputation someday equaling that of Pine Valley, Cypress Point, Laurel Valley or Augusta National."

Opened for play in July, 1991, the club presently has 300 members with an ultimate goal of 450. Caves Valley is national in scope so membership comprises local, regional, national, corporate and international members.

Designed by Tom Fazio, the course is very traditional in nature. Many holes were carved out of mature forest and, therefore, has the look and feel of being older than it really is.

Greens and tees are Penncross Bentgrass, currently overseeded with Southshore and SYN-3.



Caves Valley, Hole No. 9

Fairways are seeded with a bentgrass mixture of 40% Cobra, 40% Penneagle and 20% Penncross.

Greens are cut daily at 9/64". Normal speed is 9.5 feet, but double cutting is done for special events to increase speed to 10.25 to 10.5 feet.

Tees and collars, which are hand-mowed, are cut three times per week at a height of 3/8". Fairways and approaches, mowed three to four times per week, are cut at 1/2". A combination of triplex and lightweight 5-gang mowers are used for this task.

"We grow approximately 40 acres of fescue roughs mixed with Indiangrass and Little Bluestem," notes Bruce. "These areas are left

natural and only mowed and fertilized once a year. The Indiangrass and Little Bluestem are presently in bloom, so the contrast is quite impressive." But, warns our host, "It is very difficult to advance a ball from these areas, so as you play the course, steer clear of these grasses!"

See *Caves Valley*, page 8, col 3

Golf, Lunch & Dinner

For this month only, lunch, golf and dinner are inclusive, Class A members must sign up for all three. Cost: \$130 and \$10 golf fee.

Schedule:

11:00 a.m. - Arrival, Short Course and practice range will be open.
Noon - Buffet Luncheon
1:00 p.m. - Shotgun start
5:45 p.m. - Putting/Long Drive contest

6:30 p.m. - Cocktail Party

7:15 p.m. - Dinner

9:15 p.m. - Coffee/Cookies

9:30 p.m. - Presentation of Prizes

Reservations:

Just for this time, the reservation book is not in effect. You *must* call Bill Shirk for *both* golf and dinner: 410-827-7518.

Directions:

From D.C.: Take I-95 or 295 from the D.C. Beltway. Take I-695 N/W toward Towson/Pikesville. Take Exit #21, Park Heights Ave./Stevenson Rd. North. Follow signs to Park Heights Ave.—North Route 129. Stay on Park Heights Ave. approximately 4.5 miles. Caves Valley GC is on the right, 1/4 mile above the intersection of Caves Rd. & Park Heights Ave.

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MAAGCS Newsletter

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sions welcome. Send information

to MAAGCS, 12704 Rigdale

Terrace, Silver Spring, MD 20904.

NEW MEMBERS*MAAGCS welcomes the following new members.*

Beverly Crigger, Queenstown Harbor Golf Links; **Thomas Mills**, Hydro-Terra, Inc.; **Doug Middleton**, Emerald Isle, Ltd.; **Tom Fornasar**, Lake Ridge Gold and Marina; **Charles Main**, Lakewood Country Club; **David Mattes**, Congressional Country Club; **Gary Lynott**, Tesco; **Steven Cissel**, Mid-Atlantic Tree Center; **Tom Schiltz**, Loft Seed, Inc. **Stephen Marofsky**, Washington Golf & CC

GOLF NOTES

Our September MAAGCS meeting was held at Newark CC. Many thanks to Jim Kelley CGCS and his fine staff for preparing for our first Superintendent/Club Official Tournament. Although I didn't play golf I heard great comments from some members in the pro shop about the great condition of the golf course. Thanks for a good job, Jim. We had a grand total of seven teams play.

Many thanks also to our September sponsors: *Longest Drive*—Tesco; *Closest-to-pin*—Summit Hall, Harford, Loff's, and Egypt Farms.

Results of the tournament are: *Low Gross*—Jim McHenry & Phil Yost (76); *Low Net*—Tim Sage & Floyd Devers (65); *Longest Drive*—Nick Vance; *Closest-to-Pin*—Steve Potter, #2 & #5; Kevin Mayhew, #14; Steve Cohoon, #17.

Thanks to Jim McHenry who totaled score cards and handed out the prizes.

October 12, 1993 will be our MAAGCS championship, hosted by Bruce Cadenelli and Caves Valley Golf Club. *Only Class A members are permitted to play in this tournament and attend the dinner and the field will limited to 60 players.* The tournament will be a shotgun start at 1:00 p.m. All class A members wishing to play must call me at 410-827-7518. No short pants on golf course, please. Entry fee for tournament will be \$10. There will be a long drive and putting contest after the tournament. Trophy for the gross winner is in memory of W.H. Glover. Trophy for the net winner is in memory of Carroll Hitchcock. Sponsors for this championship will be: *Longest Drive*—Pro-Lawn; *Closest-to-Pin*—G.L. Cornell, York Distributors, Scott's, Loft's. *Net Trophy* donated by Tesco; *Gross Trophy* donated by G.L. Cornell. Thanks to all sponsors.

Bill Shirk, Golf Chairman

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The long, hot summer has finally broken and those of you who didn't make the meeting at Newark



Country Club missed a fine opportunity to start the fall off with a refreshed outlook on our profession. The playing conditions of Jim Kelley's golf course were nothing less than perfect and nobody could have asked for a better day weatherwise. He had two par three holes on the front that were absolutely the best holes of golf I ever had the pleasure of playing. Jim did an outstanding job of hosting the meeting for the MAAGCS and we thank him for all of his efforts.

The next scheduled event for the MAAGCS is Ladies Night on October 9 and I hope to see all of you in Westminster with your spouses for a much deserved relaxing evening. The next meeting is our Annual Gold Tournament and will be held at Caves Valley Golf Club in Owings Mills, Maryland. Our host is Bruce Cadenelli and the day promises to be one you'll never forget. The dining facilities are limited to 60 people at Caves Valley. Because of this, the field is limited to the first 60 Class A members who respond. *The permanent reservations book is not being honored for this month so it is imperative for you to follow the directions in the newsletter if you want to participate in this event.* The board of directors extends its apologies to those who cannot attend but want to do so, and we hope to see all of you in November at Swan Creek in Havre de Grace, Maryland.

Steve Potter, President

COHOON'S CORNER

- Our thoughts are with long-time member Bert Yingling who is recovering after having problems with blood clots in his legs.
- Congratulations are in order for Bud Sweeney CGCS, of Montgomery Country Club, on having recently achieved the status of certified golf course superintendent.
- The Shields Memorial Scholarships have been awarded to Jim Hansen-Black and Frank V. Sterbak, III, both students at the University of Maryland's Institute of Applied Agriculture. Both are second-year students majoring in golf course management and currently employed at courses in the MAAGCS region. Hansen-Black is at Old South CC in Lothian, Md., and Sterbak is at Winters Run GC in Bel Air, Md. The scholarships are made possible by the annual Ray Shields Memorial Golf Tournament sponsored by Glenn Dale CC.
- Speaking of students, the GCSAA student essay contest is open now until December 31, 1993. Essay topics should relate to the interrelationship between golf courses and the environment and be between seven and 12 pages double spaced. Last year's winner was MAAGCS member Gary Harshman. If you have a turf student on your staff, encourage him to enter.

Environmental Seminar

The GCSAA and MAAGCS will present a seminar, *Environmental Considerations in Golf Course Management*, on December 13-14 at the Turf Valley Hotel and CC in Ellicott City. Objectives of the course include:

- ✓ Understand regulatory requirements for protecting water resources, wetlands and other sensitive areas.
- ✓ Learn to educate golfers and the public about the environmental benefits of golf courses and how to deal with the press and consumers.
- ✓ Learn to prepare health and environmental emergency management plans with an understanding of associated legal liabilities.
- ✓ Be able to develop pesticide management strategies for worker protection, storage, disposal and environmental protection.

Instructors for the course are Dr. Winand K. Hock of Penn State University and Dr. William A. Thomas of Oak Ridge Associated Universities. Earlybird (discounted tuition) deadline is October 14. For further information call 913-832-4444 or call Dean Graves at 301-365-0100.

Change proposed to MAAGCS by-laws

At its August meeting the MAAGCS board of directors accepted a proposed change in the current by-laws of the Association. This minor change basically reflects a clerical correction in regards to the location of our office. The proposed change is as follows:

Current by-law: "The office and mailing address for the Association shall be located at the Mid-Atlantic PGA Office."

Proposed by-law: "The office and mailing address for the Association shall be determined by the Board of Directors."

As many of you remember, the Association used the Mid-Atlantic PGA for our office for many years. Because we have grown, and now have our own office, our by-laws need to reflect this. Omitting the actual location gives the Association flexibility should a change in office location again be necessary.



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Planting Suggestions for Landscape Ornamentals

by Tamara M. Pedersen, Professional Turf Specialties, reprinted from the Heart of America GCSA

Autumn is here!

With the golf season winding down, many superintendents are thinking about plans to beautify the course with various species of ornamental plants. Before you write a purchase order to the nursery or garden center, take time to plan carefully and to prepare the soil adequately. When planning which plants to use, consider variety, time of bloom, form, texture, color and balance. Send soil samples to the lab to give a clear indication of pH and nutrient deficiencies. Add the proper soil amendments to adjust pH for your growing situation. Remember that soil texture, degree of pH and type of amendment are all factors in the slow process of correcting pH. In the fall, incorporate a good slow-release landscape fertilizer, with micronutrients as recommended from soil tests. The addition of peat moss is always a good idea to increase the organic matter content of the landscape bed.

Once your plans are made and the soil is prepared, it is time for fall planting.

Bulbs. Select spring flowering bulbs and begin to plant daffodils, narcissus, hyacinths and crocus in September and October. Store tulip bulbs in moderate refrigeration for planting around Halloween. There are organic fertilizers available containing manures, sunflower ash and bone meal, which are excellent to use in bulb plantings.

Mums. Early fall is the season to set out chrysanthemums. Try to plant mums before blooms open, if you desire them to live as a perennial in the landscape. They will have more time to root before the plant's energy resources are used up in the flowering. After

blooms are spent, cut back to about six inches and mulch well. Divide old perennials such as day lilies, hosta and ferns to transplant now. Consider planting drifts of spring flowering bulbs among these herbaceous perennials. The leaves of these plants will cover the dying foliage of bulbs after spring blooms are spent. Most ground covers can be planted at any time during the growing season, except English ivy, which has been recommended in the literature to be planted in the fall. In September, sow seeds of hardy annuals in landscape beds such as candytuft, California poppy, clarkia, sweet alyssum, cosmos, pinks, larkspur, snapdragon, sweet pea, pansy, calendula and cornflower for bloom next year. Plant new peony bushes now for bloom in May. The summer blooming bulbs, allium and fritillaria, are typically planted in the early fall. These flowering and foliage species can add beauty to the landscape by accenting the trees and shrubs with showy color throughout the season.

There are many woody

ornamentals which should be planted in early fall. Some shrubs to avoid planting late are leather-leaf viburnum, wintergreen barberry, cotoneaster, Japanese holly, American holly, Japanese black pine, yews, azaleas and rhododendron. Evergreens that should be planted in early fall include: pines, spruce and junipers. It is important that these species experience at least four weeks of soil temperatures above 40 degrees F, to allow for sufficient root growth and to minimize transplant shock. There are root stimulators available to use at planting, which enhance root growth and vigor. Wait until late fall to plant deciduous trees. They should have dropped their leaves and have begun dormancy by November. Dig holes now and amend the soil with organic matter before the ground becomes hard with freeze. Don't forget that some trees can easily be propagated from seed. Collect a few acorns this fall which can be directly seeded in the natural landscape.

There are some exceptions to



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Ornamentals, from page 4

the "Fall is for planting" rule of a green thumb. Most container-grown nursery plants can be planted from early spring to fall. Among these are most ground covers and new perennials. If these are planted in the fall, they should be adequately mulched to prevent frost heaving. Many garden centers have a variety of summer blooming bulbs available in spring. Pay close attention to planting dates for each species to avoid loss by an early frost. As a rule, most broadleaf evergreens and spring flowering trees should be planted in early spring as soon as the ground can be worked. Among the species recommended for spring planting are fir, maple, pawpaw, American hornbeam, hackberry, katsuratree, fringetree, filbert, hawthorn, cypress, hickories, nootka, walnut, larch, beech, holly, goldenraintree, tuliptree, magnolia, blackgum, corktree, American ironwood, cherry, pear, oaks, sassafras, zelkova, bald cypress, stewartias and sweetgum. Some common landscape trees which have recommendations for spring or fall planting are river birch, redbud, falsecypress, yellowwood, hemlock and white cedar. These species are not all suitable as golf course trees because of leaf size and litter problems.

Keep these planting suggestions in mind this fall as you plan landscaped areas on the golf course. Test the soil, add amendments and fertilize to prepare soil for long-term success. Mulch new plantings to conserve moisture and give the bed a fresh, finished look. Enjoy the fall weather, and good luck with your landscape plans.



Ciba-Geigy program includes GCSAA seminar, S&R incentives

CSAA seminar registration fees and donations to the GCSAA Scholarship & Research Golden Tee Club are among the wide-range of incentives for various levels of purchases in Ciba-Geigy's 1993 purchase incentive program.

Golf course superintendents may also earn diagnostic tools and site safety allowances through the 1993 Ciba Turf & Ornamental Products "Prescriptive Control Program."

"We've received an outstanding response from superintendents who've participated in past programs," said Jose Milan, Ciba Turf & Ornamental Products marketing manager.

"Our 1993 program continues our tradition of offering practical items that can help superintendents better perform their jobs and financial support for industry research."

GCSAA president Randy S. Nichols, CGCS, said, "We're glad to see that Ciba-Geigy is continuing its commitment to the future of the golf course management industry by supporting GCSAA Scholarship & Research and professional

education opportunities for superintendents."

To qualify for the 1993 program, superintendents must purchase a minimum of \$2,000 worth of Ciba's Award, Banner, Exhibit, Pennant, Primo, Subdue or Triumph golf course chemicals. This initial purchase earns a complimentary copy of *Compendium of Turfgrass diseases*.

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Superintendents may redeem

See Ciba, page 8, col 2



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Turfgrass August Picnic Album

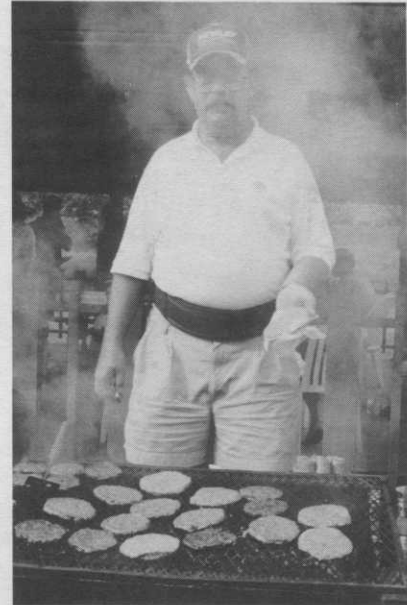
You had to be there. But if you weren't . . . we think these photos are the next best thing. And if you were one of the happy crowd at the picnic, we hope these candid shots will let you relive the fun.



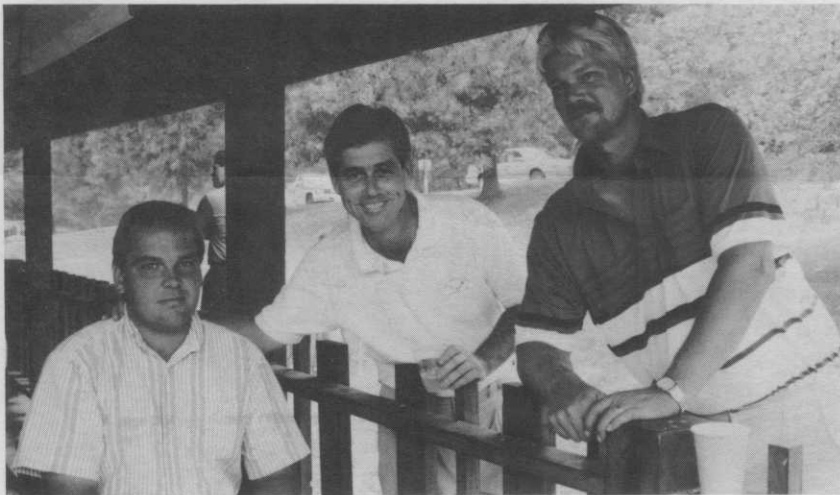
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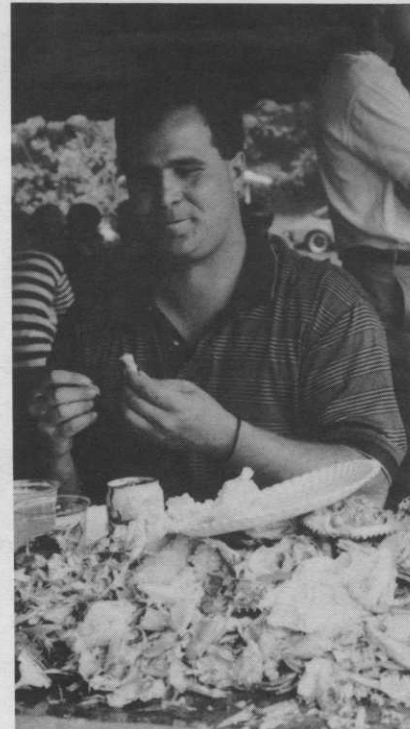
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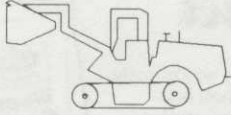
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For further information or to order contact Lewis Publishers at 800-272-7737 or the USGA at 800-336-4446.

Ciba, from page 5

points as follows:

1 GCSAA seminar—4 to 24 points, depending on the cost of the seminar.

1 Golden Tee Club donation (in superintendent's name) to GCSAA Scholarship & Research—4 or more points.

1 *Turf & Ornamental Chemicals Reference* (1993 ed.)—4 points

1 Disease Detection Kit—3 points

1 Superintendent's Spray Program—4 points

*Note: Deadline is October 11 so don't delay; \$375 has been donated to MAAGCS Education from Ciba-Geigy and much more is possible if you participate. * * **

Did you know that.....

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Caves Valley, from page 1

Says Bruce, "Caves Valley is at the lead of environmental monitoring on golf courses. We are doing three- and five-year studies on groundwater, stream studies and pond sampling. To date, results are very encouraging. Over the next few years, we should be able to prove scientifically that golf courses, and their practices, are not harmful to the environment.

"Since we are a new club, we are still refining the course. Presently, we have numerous tee construction projects on the drawing board, as well as a fairway construction project for #17. Most work is done in-house, with three to four projects accomplished yearly. Caves Valley has been selected to host the 1995 USGA Mid-Amateur Championship in September of that year.

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