

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

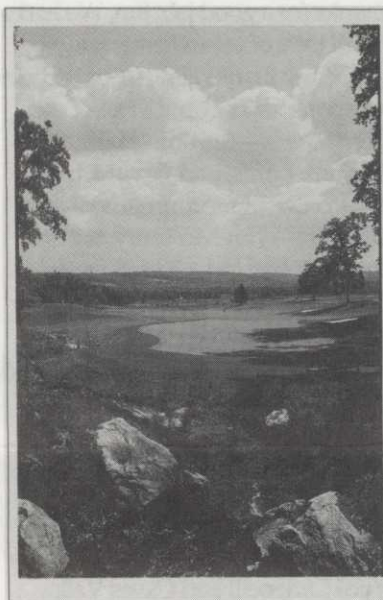
The MAAGCS Annual Golf Tournament will be held at Caves Valley Golf Club on October 12, with superintendent Bruce Cadenelli as host.

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.