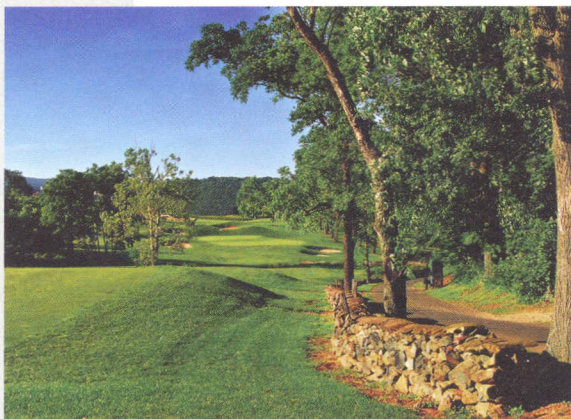


COYOTE UGLY

Early in its existence, when Stoneleigh had just nine holes, one of the partners took a trip to New Zealand and was impressed at the widespread use of sheep that were allowed to roam and graze in lieu of mowing. On his return he convinced everyone to give it a try on what is now hole Nos. 2 through 5. It worked like a charm – for a while. Unfortunately, coyotes got two of the sheep, but Stoneleigh forged ahead. Shortly thereafter, lightning struck the barn where the sheep lived and killed all but two of the others, thus

ending the experiment. The other sheep were donated to a neighbor.

That's not the only trauma to occur at Stoneleigh. Some of the Virginia club's buildings date to the 1700s. Until 1915, when U.S. Ambassador to Germany William E. Dodd took possession, the old stone manor house had been called Mt. Silvia. During the Civil War, Gen. William Sheridan set an adjoining stone barn on fire, but it was saved by the great presence of mind of Eliza James who simply climbed up and put it out. The barn survives to this day. General manager Bob Strohecker did not have the same good fortune on his first day at Stoneleigh in 2007 when fire demolished one of the main buildings. "It was a memorable first day, tending to a large golf outing while fire trucks brought the flames under control," says Strohecker. That building was later replaced and is now the golf shop.



the course at the Chevy Chase Club doesn't get its due when talk turns to the best courses of the Washington area. The club's exclusivity and members not seeking outside publicity for their course keep the Arthur Hills-design a bit of a secret. But rest assured, the layout cornered by

Bradley Lane and Connecticut and Wisconsin avenues shows favorably when compared to any of Washington's establishment courses.

PLAYING IN THE WOODS

One of the more interesting private club memberships in the area can be found at Bretton Woods in Germantown, Maryland. Fifteen minutes from the Beltway and straight down River Road, Bretton Woods is a 280-acre recreational facility for families of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. Established in 1968, Bretton Woods has more than an Ed Ault-design championship course near the Potomac River. The club offers swimming, tennis, fitness facilities, picnic areas, walking trails, soccer fields, a volleyball/basketball court and miniature golf. Despite its private

club status, Bretton Woods may book more golf outings than many area public clubs. With outings available on Monday, Wednesdays and Fridays, Bretton Woods routinely handles more than 100 golf groups a year.

HOUSE TO CLUBHOUSE

Before it was Belle Haven Country Club, the land the club now occupies was the West Grove Plantation. The plantation house sat at the highest point on the property, close to where the new Belle Haven clubhouse now stands. The house was burned to the ground by Federal troops retaliating against the owner's sons for serving as officers in the Confederate army under Gen. Robert E. Lee. It was never rebuilt and the next house on the Virginia property would be Belle Haven's original clubhouse, which opened in 1925.

RELATIVE LENGTH

The Baltimore Country Club was formed in 1898 and the next year hosted the fifth U.S. Open, won by Willie Smith by 11 strokes, the largest margin in the tournament until 2000. He earned \$150 out of a total purse of \$650, which was almost double the previous year's payout. Only eight of the 57 players were paid.

The course used at the time, some 20 miles from the present location, played to a par of 78 over 4,878 yards, plenty long in those dead-ball days. Still, some players could hit the ball a long way even then. The day before the tournament a long-drive contest was held and the winner walked off with the \$20 prize after a shot of 269 yards, one foot. Most