

Forest Hills Golf Club Set to Host Stodola Scramble on Sept. 19

Forest Hills Golf Club Superintendent Marlow Hansen began working at the course 32 years ago - the last 25 as Superintendent.

A small group of area businessmen and golfers designed the course. The original 9 holes were sketched on a Hamm's beer napkin which the club still has in its possession. The par 72 course was built in 1960, measures 6,514 yards and features rolling hills and tree-lined fairways. The greens are fairly small "push up" style greens.

Major Challenges

The golf course is built on two different types of soils – one half on heavy clay soil and the other half on very deep peat bog soil.

History

As mentioned earlier, the club was designed by members and also built by its members and volunteer work. The second nine holes were built in 1964.

In the early 1980s the installation of an extensive drainage system greatly improved the golf course.

In 1994 we completed a reconstruction project of our 15th hole which follows the contour of a lake. The project included installation of a retaining wall along the shore from tee to green, installation of a fabric barrier beneath the entire fairway, covering the entire fairway with up to three feet of soil, and complete replacement of tees and green.

A complete bunker renovation project in the fall of 2000 and most recently in 2004 -05 we installed a completely new irrigation system with that involved enlarging ponds and raising fairways. And most recently built a Practice Facility.

Superintendent Marlow Hansen

Hansen was born and raised in Forest Lake very near the golf course. I started working at the club as a dish washer in 1975, then graduated to grounds crew in 1977. I spent one full season working on a golf course in Florida after graduating from high school and quickly learned Florida was not the place for me. I returned to Forest Hills and had the fortunate opportunity to become



Forest Hills Golf Club's No. 4 -- a 350-yard, par 4.

Superintendent in 1985, I was 25 years old and it has been a "mostly enjoyable" learning experience ever since.

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I have raised two great children – a daughter and a son 27 and 22 years old, who both live near by.

I have recently been re-married (two years) to a wonderful wife and two more great (step) children. And we just moved to a new home in Wyoming, Minn.

I enjoy golfing in the summer, hunting in the fall but my favorite thing to do is ice fishing - the best thing I have ever

bought myself is my 6 x 14 Ice Castle - fish house on wheels!

Assistant Superintendent Jeff Meredith

I live in Hugo with the most understanding, forgiving and amazing woman on this earth. We have been together for almost six years. We have two dogs, a damn bird, a farm cat, no children and a chunk of property. This year is my 15th season on the golf course. I started at Dellwood Hills Golf Club pushing a rotary around trees and I was hooked. After a couple seasons there I got a job at the White Bear Yacht Club where I spent eight years. During that time I completed a two-year degree from Anoka Technical College, and obtained an extensive amount of field experience from my mentor, John Steiner, CGCS. Marlow hired me as Assistant Superintendent at Forest Hills in the spring of 2008 and we have become a great team here. I like to play golf in the summer if it's not too hot, and I LOVE to ride snowmobiles in the winter. The colder and snowier the better.