

Super - N- Site

Brandon Shindele, Edina



a Country Club

Presented by John Meyer, Koch Industries



Super-N-Site

Manners Matter

Former Edina Superintendent, Mike Kelly, introduced me to Brandon Schindele many years ago during one of my frequent sales calls on Mike. The ever professional Brandon would always go out of his way to catch up with me and say, “Hello, Mr. Meyer, how are you today?” I would look around the room and look for my dad. “Mr. Meyer,” I said, “That is my dad. Brandon, my name is John.” Brandon replied, “I know that Mr. Meyer. I just wanted to know how your day was.” Brandon continued that formal address for the years I called on Mike.



Brandon: always polite and professional. It dates back to his childhood and the discipline instilled in him by his father Mike. You see, when Brandon received his first set of golf clubs, his father did not allow him on the greens. Brandon

explained to me that his father had said that he was not allowed on the greens until he showed “respect for the golf course”. That respect did not take very long, as you can imagine, as Brandon and his younger brother Patrick grew up on the Oak Glen Golf Course in Stillwater.

Childhood memories, we all have them. Brandon’s favorite was when he was 10 or 11 years old and “the perch were jumping out of the holes.” Brandon and his grandpa, uncle and cousin were ice fishing on Devils Lake, and it was just one of those days when the fish were really looking for a frying pan.

Brandon not only lived on Oak Glen, he worked there too.

He worked there the summers of 1993 to 1997 during high school and college for long time superintendent Pete Mogren. The Stillwater native started his college career at the University of North Dakota. Yes, a “Fighting Sioux”, and “Once a Sioux fan always a Sioux fan,” Brandon noted. And he continued, “I might get a little grief over that.” But that grief should be short lived as Brandon did graduate in Turfgrass Science from The University of Minnesota. However, once a Sioux fan always a Sioux fan.

In 1998 Dave Simeon, Superintendent at Edina Country Club at the time, hired



Brandon as an intern and later as the second assistant. When Dave left Edina in 1999, Edina promoted from within their own ranks, and moved Mike Kelly from first assistant to superintendent. Mike then promoted Brandon to his first assistant. Brandon was Kelly's right hand man a number of years before Mike took a position with Bayer Environmental Sciences. Edina Country Club brought in Mike Powers from TPC Twin Cities as the new Superintendent and Brandon continued on as Powers' First Assistant. Powers left Edina in December 2010 and the hiring from within continued with Brandon being promoted to Superintendent.

Like most northern area golf courses,

the winter months are a time to take a breath and catch up on some of the things you did not get done during the busy season and it is a time to start planning projects for the upcoming golf season. Edina Country Club is no different. Brandon explained to me that even though it was the "off-season" he was still very busy with meetings on various projects the club is planning on doing this spring and summer. One major project the club is planning on is redoing the landscaping in front of the clubhouse.

So this summer when Brandon is out scouting the golf course at 5:30 AM during his morning drive around the golf course, he will need to take a drive by the front of the clubhouse to see how the

project is progressing, which should take about two to three weeks to complete. Upon interviewing Brandon, his day seemed to be like most superintendents... checking the crew, checking the heights of cut, scouting for disease, checking with Pro Shop, checking the weather, etc. etc. etc. I don't want to bore anyone with those details. We all know those days of summer are very long and the time on the job probably never ends. But what does Brandon do after he leaves Edina Country Club?

He spends quality time with his bride of five years, Hilary, at their Eden Prairie home. There they talk about their day and catch up on their busy lives. Hilary is a Nurse Anesthetist at Fairview University Hospital and you can probably only imagine the stories she may have. When it comes time for dinner, perhaps Brandon will look into his newly acquired "BBQ Bible" and pick out a recipe for a big fat

rib eye and throw it on the charcoal grill until it is pink on the outside and red in the middle. As for the brats, he knows when they are done because they are "popping and spitting back at you". Now that kind of makes me hungry.

Brandon does a marvelous job at Edina Country Club, but as Brandon notes, he cannot do it alone. He has a wonderful staff of assistants in Jeff Mold, Ben Arvidson, and Brian Grill. I have always heard a good mechanic can make or break a superintendent and there is no better mechanic in the golf industry than "Red" Maenke. Red has been with Edina since 1967. How about that for longevity? Red makes Brandon's and the crew's job so much easier. The rest of the crew numbers 32 during the golf season and seven during the off season. So if you are ever in the Edina area, give Mr. Schindele a call and perhaps he will give you a tour.





Edina Country Club

Built: 1923

Initial Architect: Tom Bendelow

First Superintendent: Joe Rush (1921-1964)

Following Superintendents: Bill Johnson

Dave Simeon

Mike Kelly

Mike Powers

Brandon Schindele

Recent Renovation Architect: Tom Lehman / Chris Brands

Grass:

Greens: T1 Creeping Bentgrass

Tees: Dominant Extreme 7

Fairways: Dominant Extreme 7

Rough: Bluegrass, Ryegrass, Fescue

Authors note: In January I contacted our NEW Executive Director of the MGCSA, Jack MacKenzie and our NEW Hole Notes Editor Dave Kazmierczak to express my interest in writing an occasional column or article for the magazine. Like any publisher and editor of a Superintendent magazine, they readily accepted my offer. I thought I could offer a different perspective since I travel 75% of my time outside of Minnesota. My intent is to write an occasional article featuring a current or past member of the MGCSA. In my previous life when I lived in Chicago, I helped their editor out as well, writing articles about current members. I must have started something because the column is still in their monthly magazine today. Today it is called the "Super-N-Site". We don't have a name yet for this column and I don't want to steal their name, but I will take my idea back and utilize here in Minnesota.

I had the absolute pleasure to sit down with Edina Country Club Superintendent Brandon Schindele a couple of weeks ago. I have known Brandon for close to ten years now and figured he would be a perfect "victim" for my first column on members of the MGCSA.

Hole 7 photo on page 22 by Peter Wong