

Trees on the Move

by Don Ferreri

Woodridge Golf Club/Seven Bridges

A landscaping feat was initiated at the site of the new Seven Bridges championship golf course being located over the now closed Woodridge Golf Club¹ in Woodridge, Illinois. Forest City-Harris Group, developers of Seven Bridges, brought Instant Shade Trees, Inc. from Houston, Texas to relocate 25 large, 50-75 year old trees.

Al Korenek², president of Instant Shade Trees, Inc., designed, patented and built the world's first hydraulic tree spade from a love for both trees and machinery. All tree spades today derive their basic concept from Korenek's original spade patented in 1965. Three years ago, Korenek invented the "Dream Machine", a 14-foot version of a typical tree spade.



To skeptics amazement, Korenek's "Dream Machine" invention can transplant some of the largest trees (caliper ranging from 16 to 32 inches) with a reported survival rate beyond 90 percent. The giant tree spade encircles the tree, sinks its blades into the ground in a 14-foot radius around the tree, lifts the tree and root ball weighing up to 65,000 pounds, and carries the tree and root system to a new home. The operation is a many times magnified version of a typical transplant and generally takes two hours to relocate one tree.

The tree transplanting is one of many ways the Forest City-Harris Group is preserving trees on the Seven Bridges site. The developers plan to incorporate as much of the present landscaping as possible into the master planned community.

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“Saving the trees was our goal from the time we purchased the property two years ago,” notes Fred Peterman, Vice-President of the Forest City-Harris Group. “We’re proving we can preserve large, valuable trees through careful planning.”

The Seven Bridges development includes a new 18-hole public-owned championship golf course designed by Dick Nugent, a business park, a hotel/conference center, retail space, upscale multi-family housing, and a bike-hike nature trail.

In two weeks, Korenek’s “World’s Largest Tree Spade” strategically relocated over 25 mature trees throughout Seven Bridges. The results are long term benefits to the golf course and the public. Unparalleled, this spade is an indispensable tool for the future.



1After 63 years, the Woodridge Golf Club closed on July 30, 1989. The new Seven Bridges Championship Course is due to open during the summer of 1991.

2Korenek can be reached in the Chicago area by contacting Halloran Landscaping (Lake Zurich) and in other areas by calling Instant Shade Trees, Inc. directly at (713) 433-4592.

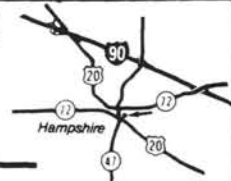
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