

Super 'N' Site Profile

by John Gurke

Now that we've all rid ourselves of all shanks, skulls, chunks, chops, worm-burners and no-brainers, Joel Purpur and the River Forest Country Club have agreed to host our June 21 MAGCS meeting.


River Forest Country Club is a beautiful old course (though I've never been invited to play it, so I rely on word-of-mouth). The original clubhouse went up in 1929, was remodeled in 1953, and was really remodeled in 1991, when a \$4 million renovation doubled its size. In 1989, tennis courts, a pool, and pond (the pond's good for you) transformed River Forest Golf Club to a family-oriented Country Club.

Joel started at River Forest in 1987, taking the reins from Ed Stewart, the superintendent for the previous 35 years. Ed continued on as consultant for the next 3 years, before retiring. Since becoming superintendent, Joel has undertaken many projects, including the in-house landscaping of the new clubhouse (green sides always up); construction of two ponds and a creek with rock walls and waterfalls on #'s 17 and 18, a short iron practice facility complete with three target greens, two bunkers, and a tee designed by Greg Martin; numerous bunkers, planting beds, and cart paths; and fairway renovation of all but the par three holes.



The Purpurs — Kailey 4½ years old, Joel & Debbie and Hayden 1½ years old.

Joel attended Penn State University on a Penncross Growers Association scholarship, where he graduated in 1980 with highest distinction and the Turfgrass Wintercourse Achievement Award. He then was hired as assistant to Fred Opperman at Glen Oak Country Club where he worked for five years before going to Bartlett Hills Golf Club as superintendent for four years. He is married to a VERY understanding wife (Debbie), has two children (Kailey, 4, and Hayden, 13 months), a dog, a bird, and a pool table. Like many of us, Joel likes winter sports — hockey, skiing, and continuation of the Purpur family tree. Joel is currently Secretary-Treasurer of the MAGCS, and looks forward to hosting the June outing as much as we are looking forward to playing his fine course. See you on the 21st.



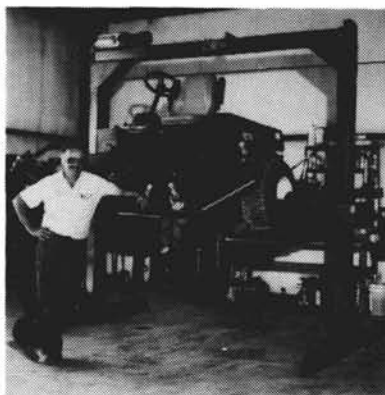
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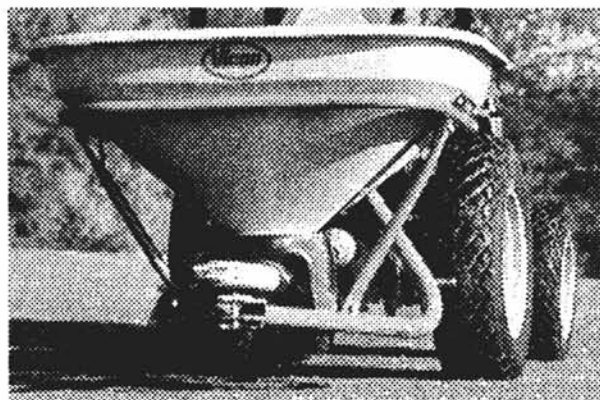
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