

Fred Behnke -N- Mt. Prospect Golf Club

*Jim McNair
Orchard Valley G.C.*

When we tee it up this month at Mt. Prospect Golf Club, we'll be doing it on 18 new bentgrass tees. Our host will be the newest MAGCS Board member, Fred Behnke. Fred has been very generous to the MAGCS, hosting several meetings in the last few years; and his course is always a pleasure to play. Fred has been a very busy individual lately. In addition to the new bent tees, Fred earned the Merit Award in the national Environmental Steward competition and is actively involved with the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary program.

The busy Mt. Prospect Golf Club (55,000 rounds annually) was built in 1920, so long ago that the



architect is unknown. The club was rumored to have had ties to the Capone mob during the '30s, who reportedly buried a large sum of money on the property. An escape tunnel leads from the former club-

house to the creek. The Mt. Prospect Park District bought the course in 1962.

Fred received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Carthage College in 1974. He began working at MPGC in 1981 and became superintendent in 1987. Fred credits his mentors, Bob and Bruce Williams and Mike Bavier, with giving him a well-rounded turf background. Fred also holds a certificate from Harper College in Parks and Grounds Management.

When Fred can find the time to get away from the course, he wants to spend it with his wife Nancy, son Daniel, and daughter Marilu. Fred's hobby is the new house, and he still finds time to serve on his local school board and sing in his church choir. Fred

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I Feel Fortunate

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4. For the impressive list of Environmental Steward Awards garnered by the members of the MAGCS. My thought is that this can only encourage others to elevate their standards and motivate them/us toward this level of excellence.

Maybe others feel as fortunate as I. It is easy to see why when we take the time to analyze our profession and all the good things it has to offer us and our communities. Our president, Ed Braunsky, had an interesting spin on our profession: "Golf course superintendents are one big fraternity." I personally feel we are bonded to the common goal of providing a golf facility that is pleasant to view and play, challenging, environmentally friendly and relaxing. ■

The Sunset Ridge Plan

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What a great way to prove to the public that golf course superintendents are part and parcel of a CLASS profession. How about this for a great headline as 1997 draws to a close: Forty Chicago Area Clubs Have Now Joined the Sunset Ridge Plan!!!

We have some of the finest turf and turfgrass managers in the nation. Illinois needs to lead the nation in turfgrass support for its university programs. As Director of Development for the ITF, I am charged with building a bigger support base for our universities so they can support your industry. I am developing new approaches and ideas for achieving levels of support never before realized in Illinois. I would like to discuss these programs with you, get your ideas and encourage you to join in with me. Insuring the future strength of the Illinois turfgrass industry is the responsibility of all of us. ■

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states, "I love this job, everyday! There is nothing greater than to be on the golf course at dawn and see the sun rise to begin a new day." I think we all agree.

Come on out on the 21st and see the manifestation of one man's love for his job. Remember to come and tread lightly, for steel spikes are no longer allowed at any MAGCS golf event. ■

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