

Dan Anderson -N- Fox Valley Golf Club

Luke Cella
Pottawatomie G.C.

It all started for Dan when he was sitting in his advisor's office back in high school, as he explained, a bit hokey but true. He was looking at his options in life when he read an article by an anonymous golf course superintendent that described the profession. The written words promised Dan this vision of grandeur: The career choice for one who has a love of the outdoors and enjoys adventure that is inwardly fulfilling and, also, a low to median pay scale. At once Dan was hooked by the vision of himself becoming a part of the profession. I agreed the whole story was hokey, but Dan has succeeded in our field and has become another hero behind the scenes by providing another fine playing field for those of us who enjoy the game.

Dan has been the superintendent at FVGC for the past nine years. He gained his golf course experience as an assistant clubhouse manager at Pine Meadow C.C. for two years, golf course superintendent of the red course at Twin Orchard C.C. for a year, and also was an assistant at Pine Meadow during their reconstruction under Ted Sokolis. He also worked at the U of I, Urbana-Champaign, golf course while earning a degree in turfgrass management. Dan became certified by the CGSAA in January of 1995.

Recently, Dan has been involved with installing a pond between their 12th and 13th holes. An avid fisherman, Dan will probably try to get the pond stocked with anything that will bite his little hook. He also has been working on drainage, bunker



Dan Anderson, CGCS, superintendent of Fox Valley Golf Club.

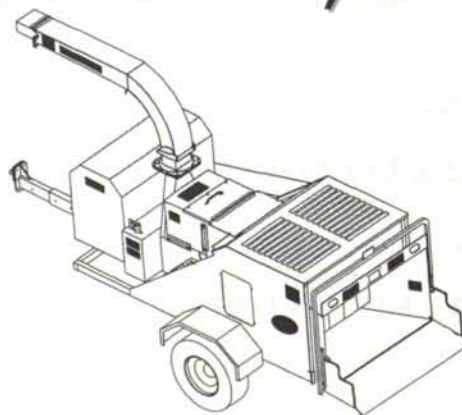
renovation and also tee construction. Dan explains FVGC is improving every season. The most unique feature of the course is the rolling hills one would not expect to find so close to a river. The golf course also supports beautiful stands of native oaks and hickories. Dan explained to me that many American Elms were lost to Dutch elm disease, and that is why some parts of the course appear to be open. The golf course was built in the early twenties and now supports 45,000 to 50,000 rounds per year.

Dan is a member of the GCSAA, CGCSA, ITF and MAGCS where he serves on the Educational as well as Editorial Committees. I almost forgot, Dan is also the past secretary/treasurer of the Fox Valley Golf League

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Point of View . . .
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have all the different approaches that will allow a golfer to think before he swings. Phil breaks it down to the length of the hole: 440 yards, open; 365 yards, guarded; and 560 yards, a very large green.

QUESTION 5
Fairways: Has the switch from blue/ryegrasses to bentgrasses improved the game only for a few who can hit off bentgrass regularly?

Trey has a different perspective. He feels that by installing bentgrass, the club at a public course can raise their fees in accordance. If a golfer wants to pay top dollar, he wants a "private" course in the public sector. Economics has played a big part in changing the texture of the fairway. Phil believes that the poor player will benefit because the ball will roll farther, and the iron shot to the green from the fairway will hold due to back spin. Tony's answer was YES; end of statement.

QUESTION 6
Superintendents: What would you like to see us do to better the game?

Tony suggests questioning your golfers what they are looking for, keep the golf courses challenging but not unfair, and too many courses are tough for the the average golfer with a 20 handicap to break 100. Phil adds that the greens are the most important part of a golf course, keep a good relationship with your club pro (makes the job easier), and a superintendent who plays his own course will have a better overall conditioned golf course. Trey feels that superintendents need to interact more with the public by either using bulletin boards, newlines, or one-on-one with customers. Trey also thinks that the program "Par for the Course"

is an excellent public relation tool for the public.

QUESTION 7
What constitutes your signature hole from tee to green?


All three are in agreement: a hole that says AWESOME; a hole that has beauty, great landscaping with bushes, trees, and flowers; and has depth perception, elevation of tees, contours, and water hazards with fountains.

I would like to say thank you to these PGA professionals for taking their time to sit down and answer these questions. I hope some of these answers could help you in your day-to-day operation. Enjoy a round of golf with your local club PGA professional!


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(a golf league primarily of superintendents and suppliers), a position that he slyly passed onto myself. Thanks, Dan.

Dan and his wife Catherine will celebrate their ten-year wedding anniversary in September. They have two children, Alexandra who is seven and Matthew who is four. Dan also travels with Bruiser, a seven-year-old Australian shepherd, a seemingly kind animal that you're never real sure about. Dan and Catherine are closing on their new home at the end of May, which they had constructed this past spring and look forward to inhabiting. Two weeks later, we will all be out on his course enjoying all of his efforts, as he is our gracious host for our June monthly meeting. 



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