

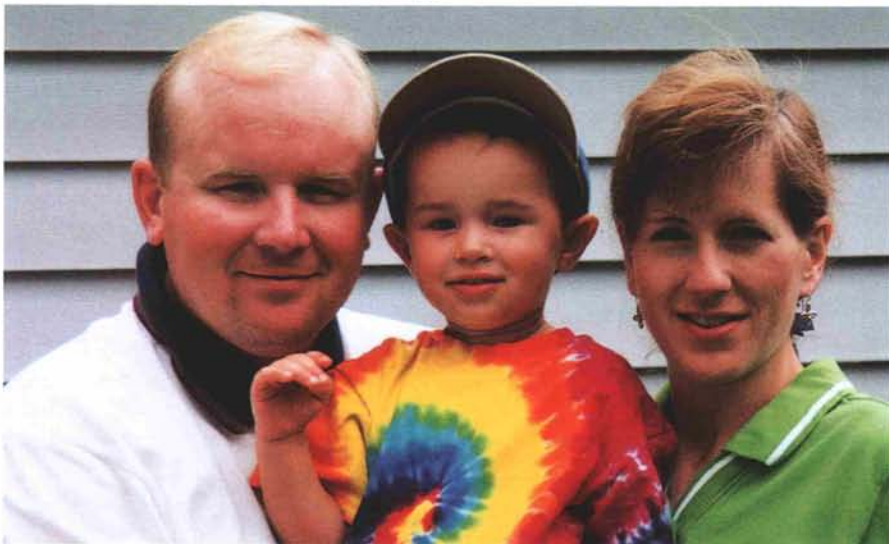
Tony Kalina -N- Prairie Landing Golf Club

*Dave Braasch
Hughes Creek G.C.*

Tony Kalina and Prairie Landing Golf Club will host October's MAGCS meeting. This month's outing will be the second held at the course; the first gathering dates back four years to September of 1995.

Tony's team is top-notch, consisting of 22 seasonal employees, two assistants—Derek Florian and Todd Schmitz (son of one of our veterans, Ray Schmitz)—and a mechanic to maintain the equipment used to care for the facility's 277 acres.

(continued on page 8)



The Kalina family: Tony, three-year-old son Andrew and wife Melora.



Aerial view of #8 hole, par 4, 375 yards on left, with #2, par 4, 367 yards on right.

Photo by Tony Kalina

Tony Kalina -N- Prairie Landing G.C.

(continued from page 6)

Tony comes from a "golf family." Two of his brothers were golf professionals, and the third brother is a superintendent in Nebraska. Himself a 24-year veteran of the business, Tony started out caddying at age 11 and eventually went to college at age 25 to study turf. His GCSAA scholarship helped pay for his education at the University of Nebraska, where he graduated with two degrees: a bachelor's in agronomy and a bachelor's in horticulture, concentration turf science. While in college, Tony completed several internships, the first one at Southern Hills C.C. in Oklahoma; subsequent internships were done under the tutelage of his own brother, Charles Kalina, CGCS.

Upon graduation, Tony went to work for Oscar Miles at the Merit Club for two seasons.

Complexity, scale and size of design are the biggest challenges Tony faces in managing this Robert Trent Jones, Jr. design. He states that mowing and spraying are difficult because of the sharp undulating mounds throughout the course.

He arrived at Prairie Landing as the assistant superintendent under Scott Nissley. After paying his dues as an assistant, Tony became a chief (the superintendent) in 1995.

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When Tony is not watching the planes buzz over his head or the grass grow beneath his feet, he spends time with his lovely wife, Melora, and his three-year-old son, Andy. He can't wait until the season slows down so that he can make up for some of the lost family time devoted to the job during the busy summertime schedule.

(continued on page 24)

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Points Worth Pondering

- The customer is not always right, but the customer is never wrong.
- Nobody cares what you know until they know that you care.
- Someone else may be 100% to blame, but you are 100% responsible for how you react.
- Customer service is nothing but a reflection of your own satisfaction.
- Always find a way to say "yes" to the customer.
- Every person's work is a self-portrait.
- An apology is an excellent way to have the "last word" in a disagreement.
- When one door closes, another opens, but we often look so long and so regretfully upon the closed door that we do not see the one that has opened for us.

Tony Kalina -N- Prairie Landing G.C.
(continued from page 8)

Tony is also involved in two different steward groups: the West Chicago Prairie Stewardship Group and the Adopt-a-School program in West Chicago. Also, he is currently on the list to volunteer at the Morton Arboretum.

Projects to tackle this coming year include re-establishing grass lines, reconstruction of bunkers and adding more prairie areas—as if there isn't enough tall grass already!

In any event, bring plenty of balls and a wind sock, and we'll see you in October at Prairie Landing. 

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