

# Joseph Meier



The Meier family: Joseph, Stephanie, Jaclyn and wife Joanne.

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*Joe Meier, superintendent at White Deer Run Golf Course—the site of our August meeting—graduated in 1974 from the University of Illinois with a degree in business. Immediately thereafter, he started his own landscape design and construction firm, and after 10 years, he decided to pursue his dream of constructing a golf course. In 1992, he enrolled in night classes at the College of Lake County and earned a two-year degree in horticulture, majoring in turf. Upon graduation, Joe began working at Turnberry Golf Club, where he became the assistant superintendent for four years.*

*Built on 250 acres surrounded by homes, the course boasts 50 acres of bentgrass; 5.5 acres of bunkers (110 bunkers total—better practice your sand shots); greens averaging 8,500 square feet; five sets of tees that set up from 4,500 yards to 7,300 yards (expect 7,300 for the MAGCS meeting); 7.5 miles of cart paths; and 1,200 sprinkler heads.*

During the summer of 1996, Joe met Ray Plote, owner of Boulder Ridge Country Club. Ray was in the process of building a new golf course in far north suburban Vernon Hills: White Deer Run. Joe, along with Todd Lipschutz (land planner-general manager), oversaw every aspect of building White Deer Run, from rough grading to seeding to layout. Both Todd and Joe were instrumental in developing and very involved in the construction of this stunning, upscale, public golf course. Designed by Dick and Tim Nugent and built by Ryan, Inc., White Deer Run is Joe's "diamond in the rough."

A budget of \$650,000 went toward drainage—a major concern, and the course fared well during this wet June of 2000—and the irrigation system was mapped out by using a global positioning system (GPS). Another \$600,000 was spent on retaining walls; Joe notes that some walls are about 20' high. The course opened in August 1998 and during its first full season in 1999, tallied about 24,000 rounds.

White Deer Run is a young course and as such, has a very short history, but impressive vital statistics. Built on 250 acres surrounded by homes, the course boasts 50 acres of bentgrass; 5.5 acres of bunkers

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Joe is married to a lovely wife, Joanne, and has two wonderful, beautiful daughters: Stephanie (12) and Jaclyn (6). A diehard Cubs fan, having lived only five minutes from Wrigley Field for 20 years, Joe is hoping that the Cubs will not trade Sammy Sosa. When not tending to the course, Joe keeps busy by coaching girls' basketball, reading (when the Cubs are losing) and playing golf. He believes that Tiger Woods is in a class by himself and the other Tour players had better bring their games to his level. Among Joe's other convictions: junior golf needs a lot of attention, as children are our best resource to keep the golf industry alive. Also, Joe sees a dire need for more teaching professionals.

I enjoyed talking to Joe, a very laid-back, hard-working person. Please come to White Deer Run G.C. in August for the Midwest meeting and enjoy this "diamond in the rough."



Hole #8 at White Deer Run.

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