

Henry Michna



The Michna family includes son Tony (9), wife Lisa, Henry and son Mark (15). Canine members are Akasha (L), named after a character in an Anne Rice novel, and Voodoo, named after a New Orleans beer.



The June meeting moves to the North Shore, where it will be hosted by the Winnetka Golf Club and Henry Michna. Henry started in the business working for Peter Hahn at Ridgemoor Country Club in 1982. His first day on the job was spent edging traps on foot. During his tenure with Peter, Henry learned many things, but the most important item was proper irrigation practices. A quote he learned from Peter stays with him today:



Thanks to Henry's nurturing, Winnetka Golf Club has a thriving—and growing—bluebird population.

“Irrigation is critical, but drainage is imperative.” In January of 1989, he moved to help Roger Stewart grow in Stonebridge Country Club. Roger first bought a pick-up, then he hired Henry. It was during his tenure at Stonebridge where Henry learned the importance of managing the staff. After one-and-a-half seasons there, he accepted the position of golf course superintendent at Winnetka Golf Club, starting on Memorial Day weekend in 1990.

In 1916, Winnetka Golf Club's original nine holes were designed by William Langford and built, along with ball fields. During the early 1920s, more land was acquired and nine more holes were added.

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The site of the present 18 holes was built in 1930, designed by C.D. Wagstaff. William Langford designed the existing nine-hole par 3 course in 1959, while in semi-retirement. The par 3 course is still original and has some interesting green sites. It may be Langford's last design. The site also contains several playing fields and a unique tennis facility donated by the A.C. Nielsen family, as well as an ice arena.

Winnetka Golf Club is constructed on a peat muck soil. Its primary function is flood relief, with its secondary purpose being recreation. The Skokie Lagoon and the golf course were built at the same time. The whole topography of the site does not change more than one foot. Because of this, drainage—both micro and macro—is Henry's biggest challenge at the golf course. The par 3 course has gravity drainage, while the 18-hole course is drained by sump pumps. Henry has three drainage lift stations that pump from the drainage into his ponds. Along with that are four pumps that drain water from the property at 5,000 GPM. During February of 1997, they received 7" of rain in 18 hours, which caused the elaborate pumping system to move 22 million gallons of water. As Henry will state, proper monitoring of irrigation is critical, especially on a site of this nature. His pump house is the original


from 1930 and is still operational.

Henry and his excellent staff continue to improve drainage on an annual basis, while improving other areas of the golf course. Recently they completed a half mile of cart path work, installed 400' of a 36" culvert line and renovated the irrigation pond. One item they are quite proud of is the installation of drinking fountains throughout the golf course. Along with drainage, Henry's next area targeted for improvement is to enhance his fairway turf.

Henry also has enrolled Winnetka Golf Club into the Audubon program. The course has a prolific purple martin colony with 55-75 fledglings a year. Henry's bluebird population has also been picking up over the years. Henry claims this is runover from Don Cross over at Skokie Country Club. Henry developed his love for the outdoors growing up one block away from the forest preserve and Des Plaines River and mowing lawns as a child.

Behind every good man, stands a great woman, as Henry would state. He has been married to his wife, Lisa, for 11 years. They have two wonderful children, Kenny and Tony. Every winter Henry builds a 30' by 50' skating rink in his Mount Prospect backyard for the family. For hobbies, he has two German

Shepherds to keep him busy and a restored 1968 Dodge Charger R/T with a 440 engine.

The entire staff at Winnetka Golf Club is looking forward to hosting the June outing. It will be a fun experience at a unique public facility, which I am sure everyone will enjoy. 

Basic Medical . . . (continued from page 20)

Rogers James Seymour. Englewood Cliffs, NJ. Prentice Hall, Inc.. 1981.

Emergency Medical Procedures For the Home, Auto, and Workplace. Revised in consultation w/ Elliott C. Cohen, M.D., F.A.C.E.P. Chief, Emergency and Ambulatory Services, Beverly Hospital, Beverly, MA. Prentice Hall, 1980.

Jim McDermott, President, Emergency Management Systems

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