

# Dan Albaugh



Dan and Chesapeake Bay retriever  
Bubba.

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*Dan Albaugh, who has been golf course superintendent at Ruffled Feathers in Lemont since 1994, will host his second monthly meeting there on April 23. Dan last played host in September 1997, when Ruffled Feathers was the venue for the MAGCS championship event.*

Dan was literally born and raised between the ninth and 18th holes at Westmoreland Country Club where his father, Julius Albaugh, has been golf course superintendent for 38 years. When he began laboring on the golf course at the tender age of five, Dan knew that he would one day become a golf course superintendent. During his tenure as assistant golf course superintendent to “the late great” Bruce Sering at Glen View Club from 1987 until 1994, Dan worked towards his bachelor’s degree, majoring in both geography and plant soil and mining in environmental science. Dan achieved the title of “master gardener” upon completion of a 12-week cooperative education program with the University of Illinois in 1993. Dan achieved CGCS status with the GCSAA in January 1999. Now 37 years old, Dan is single.

Ruffled Feathers Golf Club opened in 1992 and was nominated as “Best New Private Golf Club” in the country. However, with only 12 of the \$50,000 memberships ever purchased, the private club went public in 1994. Since 1995, American Golf Corporation has owned and operated this championship golf course, which is currently ranked 23rd among the state’s top 25 by *Golf Digest*. Moreover, Ruffled Feathers is the only Chicago-area golf course designed by architects Pete and P.B. Dye. Creating this fabulous layout, which features water coming into play on 17 of its 18 holes, required moving 1 million cubic yards of earth. The 175-acre course also boasts 30 acres of wetlands and is surrounded by a 350-acre residential community. Designed to accommodate tournament play, the

course features undulating greens, severely contoured fairways and 117 sand traps.

The biggest challenges Dan faces in trying to maintain the course are the high expectations of himself, the management company and the golfers. Ruffled Feathers was designed to accommodate only 10,000 rounds per year, but is currently receiving 32-35,000 rounds per year. Dan explains that the tees are too small to handle all of this traffic. In 1998, Pete and P.B. Dye were the architects when Dan and crew enlarged the tees on nos. 2, 10 and 16 and the green of no. 15.

Dan is proud to be certifying the course with the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary system. He completes the last requirement for certification

*(continued on page 38)*




many friends and connections throughout the country. Each year, the biggest melting pot seems to be the Midwest hospitality room. As a result, we seem to go over budget each year. I don't think that's such a bad thing if everyone has a good time and our Association enjoys a good reputation for doing things right. As far as going over budget, our situation would have been a lot worse if it weren't for the generous contributions of our vendors. We were able to raise roughly \$29,000 for this year's event,

compared to \$23,000 last year—a substantial increase. To all those who supported the 2001 hospitality room, hats off: the MAGCS surely appreciates your efforts. See page 6 for a list of all who participated in the Golden Tee Club. If a sales representative from one of these companies comes by, be sure to thank them.

While I appreciate all the kind words and positive feedback about the hospitality room, I do want to recognize some of the people who helped

me. First of all, Brian Bossert made it a pretty easy job by providing me with his detailed standard operating procedures. The staff at the Adam's Mark also did a tremendous job. Obviously, the catering and banquet staff stole all the good help from the hotel. *On Course* contributing editor John Gurke and graphic artist Mark Karczowski helped me with the Golden Tee Club color ad. Last but not least, Kevin DeRoo was there to cut the check and also commissioned the big decorative banner.

Well, that's all I've got to say about that—see you in Orlando. 



Dave Buckley, Chris Pekarek, Tim Kelly and Tony Kalina.



Brad Anderson, John Nelson and Al Fierst.



John Lebedevs with Tom Lively.

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*Dan Albaugh . . . (from page 18)*

this spring, when he conducts a controlled burn throughout the wetlands that will require communication and participation with the Ruffled Feathers residential community.

Dan works out seven days a week, as does his Chesapeake Bay retriever, Bubba, who is in charge of goose control, running 14 miles a day in this pursuit. Dan's other hobbies are hunting, fishing and motorcycling. Dan is especially fond of his two Harleys (a 1979 "Super-Glide" and a 2000 "Electric Glide Ultra Classic"), which he plans to trailer to the Daytona Bike Show annually each March.

