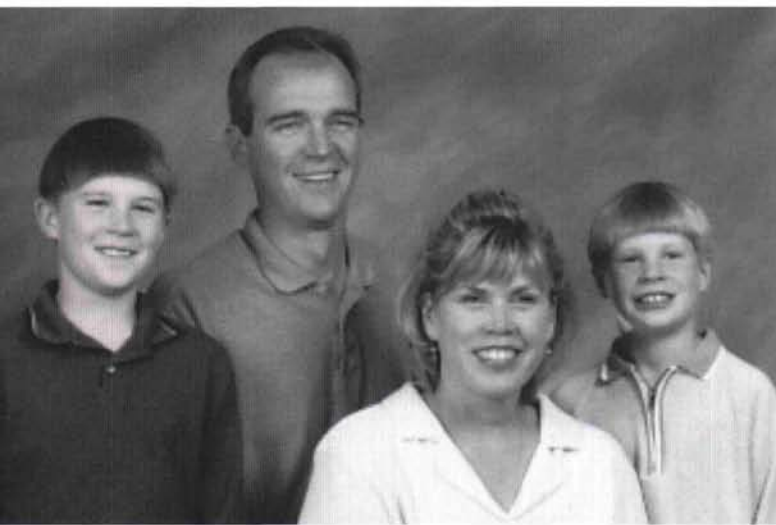


Nick Hongisto



The Hongisto family (L to R): Andy, Nick, Diane and Peter.



Nick Hongisto is the host of our March meeting at Schaumburg Golf Club. A married man for 17 years, Nick met his wife, Diane, while attending Northern Illinois University between 1978-1982. (To my fellow SIU-C alumni: I know that writing about people who went to that NIU place is against the Salukis' unwritten code of ethics, but it is my obligation to the Editorial Committee to fulfill certain assignments, such as authoring a Super-N-Site. Besides, we SIU folk knew where to have fun and of course, get an education. Nick, I had to give you some #&%! on this one!)

Upon graduation from NIU, Nick attended Kishwaukee Community College to study turf. While attending KCC, in the early '80s, he held the position of assistant superintendent at Kishwaukee C.C. In 1985, he made the move to what was then known as Golden Acres to become golf course superintendent. The original 1927 layout was designed by Langford & Moreau and remained the same until 1990, when a major facelift began. Bob Lohmann provided the master plan for this five-year renovation. USGA greens, new bunkers and a name change are just a few of the many changes that took place.

"The layout for the most part remained the same, with the exception of two holes that were moved to make room for the new clubhouse, parking lot and maintenance facility," Nick relates. His most recent project was the installation of an 800' sea wall along one of Schaumburg Golf Club's many ponds.

Nick claims his greatest reward is the satisfaction the crew experiences by starting and finishing projects on time and better than expected. Nick is currently pursuing certification status but will temporarily put it on hold until we know the final outcome of PDI.

When Nick has free time, he and Diane like to travel to Michigan with their two boys, Andy, 12, and Peter, 10, to visit relatives. At home in St. Charles, Nick is active in the family's church and fixes computers for people. His most recent project was helping Dan Murray try to recover everything in his computer after it basically "self-destructed," according to Nick.

Until next time, this is Junior signing off. We'll see you at Schaumburg Golf Club. 