



MAGCS members are in for a real treat this month when we visit the venerable Lynn Wesson and Phillips Park Golf Course in Aurora. The 70-year-old course has undergone a complete renovation by architect Greg Martin and Wadsworth Golf Course Construction. The 64-year-old superintendent claims to have undergone a rebirth of sorts, himself, during the reconstruction.

LYNN'S LINER NOTES

HIS BIGGEST CHALLENGE:

*The rebuilding of
Phillips Park*

HIS BIGGEST LESSON LEARNED:

*Once is enough
(referring to the above)*

HIS BIGGEST TRIUMPH:

*Getting it up
(on the tee . . .)*

IF HE COULD DO IT OVER:

*"I'd be born to a rich
family."*

SUGGESTION FOR PLAYING THE COURSE:

"Come and have fun!"

Lynn Wesson, our host, actually started out culturing organisms (fungi) that most of us try to eradicate. The former mushroom farmer started in the golf business two decades ago under the tutelage of Jerry Breunig at Edgebrook C.C. in Sandwich, IL. In 1990, Lynn accepted the superintendent job at Phillips Park. A lifelong resident of Sandwich, Lynn spent two years at the University of Illinois before leaving to help with the 700-acre family farm.

In their spare time, Lynn and wife Jane enjoy driving along Interstate 70 to visit daughters Margaret, Debora and Katherine and six grandchildren who reside in Pennsylvania, Ohio and Missouri. Lynn also enjoys golf and collecting 1:64-scale toy farm equipment.

The 130-acre golf course is part of a 102-year-old, 300-acre park on Aurora's southeast side. The "hilly" nine opened in 1925, while 12 years later, the course expanded to 18 holes. The new Phillips Park course is a vast change from the old. Where the old course featured small push-up greens of common bent varieties, the new L 93/Providence hybrids grace the new USGA complexes, which are nearly double the size of the old surfaces. Fairways are of the new "low mow blue" varieties (Nuglade, Liberator, Rugby and Absolute). Where the old course had pop-up sprinklers only at the greens and tees, and a lot of rollerbases, the new course is irrigated with a double-row Rain Bird Maxi system. The new course is more than 500 yards longer than the old 5,600-yard layout. The renovations included the addition of a driving range with grass tees and mats and a three-hole mini-course for juniors that is the centerpiece of the First Tee program. It is thoroughly enjoyable to play and has received rave reviews from all who enjoyed its premiere season last year. So come out to Aurora on June 24 to enjoy a masterful renovation and a lot of fun.

