

# Jim Wyffels -N-



*Jim and wife Krista.*

## WHISPER CREEK



*It's off to the north we go for the May 22nd Midwest meeting/ITF Golf Day at Whisper Creek Golf Club in Huntley, Illinois. Jim Wyffels is at the helm of this Del Webb project codesigned by Greg Nash and Billy Casper. Beginning in 1998, Ryan Central Inc. (of Janesville, WI and Elgin, IL) constructed the 18-hole facility. Lohmann Golf Designs, Inc. was also instrumental in the early development of the project.*



*Hole no. 13.*

Jim is 30 years old, is married to Krista and enjoys watching football and snow-skiing. He started out in the business working for his dad, who is a turf consultant, and soon found that his real love was being on the golf course. At the age of 12, he left his dad's side to work at Maple Bluff Golf Course and has had quite a track record since. He went to Black Hawk College, where he received an associate's degree in liberal arts. From there, he spent several years at Eagle Ridge Inn and Resort, starting out as an intern and slowly working his way up the food chain in the following order: assistant superintendent of the South course, superintendent of the North and East courses, grow-in superintendent of The General (where we played just a couple years ago). From there, he came to Whisper Creek to become the superintendent.

Jim states that the most challenging part of his job is going from grow-in to opening the golf course and does consider himself an environmental steward by implementing such tools as IPM. The most rewarding part of the job is watching the growth of his crew and seeing his assistants go on to become superintendents. Jim takes great pride in knowing that he has made a difference in the lives of those with whom he has had the opportunity to work. When asked what direction he thinks the golf course maintenance industry will be heading in the next 25 years, he responds, "I think you will see more management companies in the future and new golf facilities becoming less extravagant." Jim's professional mentors are Bob

Graunke and Dennis Peck. He explains, "They taught me the real-life day-to-day operations, everything you don't learn in school."

Now for Jim's once-in-a-lifetime experiences, or "funnies" as I like to call them. Two in particular stick out. Jim recalls that at one course, a rabid cow ran through a fence and on to the golf course property. The local police were called in to handle the situation by means of, well, I think you know where I'm going with this. Unfortunately, the story doesn't end with filets on a Weber grill. The second one is on the top five list of bad things a superintendent doesn't want to happen. Opening day at Whisper Creek, number 12 tee, Billy Casper is teeing off and all of a sudden the sprinkler turns on. To this day, Jim claims he had nothing to do with it. Oh, yeah, we believe you, Jim. Giggle giggle. The power of the handheld remote in the wrong person's hand . . .

We will see you at Whisper Creek in May.

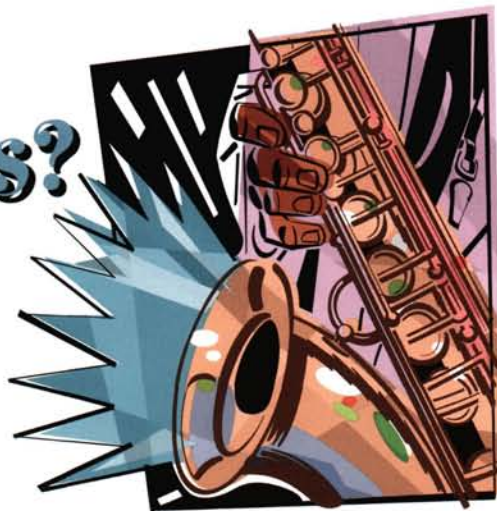


Photos courtesy Whisper Creek G.C.

No. 9 green.

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