

# Tony Kalina's Team -N-



Tony's wife, Melora, and son, Andy.



## PRAIRIE LANDING

Once again, Prairie Landing Golf Club and superintendent Tony Kalina will play host to the October MAGCS/ITF Combined Golf Day. Tony and PLGC last hosted this event on October 12, 1999. So needless to say, Tony's profile and mug appeared in these pages only four years ago. Tony reports that not much has changed since then, except he has a little less hair on top of his head. Tony and wife Melora have been happily married for 10 years and son Andrew is now seven years old. If you want to know more about Tony and Prairie Landing, go back and read the October '99 On Course "Super-N-Site" profile.

Instead of rehashing Tony's life story over again for this edition of "Super-N-Site," Tony himself requested instead a feature about his key staffers at Prairie Landing. Tony believes that you are only as good as your staff, and that it is much more important to devote time to their professional development than it is to promote yourself. Besides, Tony adds, you will actually reap just as many rewards from this approach anyway.

Here, then, is a brief introduction to Prairie Landing's team leaders: assistant superintendents Jeff Pozen and Kasey Vandeberg, foreman Rogelio Martinez and equipment technician Tony Nunes. Jeff is a Chicagoland native and a graduate of the University of Illinois, where he studied landscape architecture. Following graduation, Jeff worked for a year-and-a-half in the planning department at the Naperville Park District before taking a stab at his first golf course job—working on construction projects at Oak Brook Hills (Willowcrest G.C.) with Kerry Blatteau. Jeff also took some time off to travel to Ireland and study the traditional golf course architecture of the region. Jeff has his foursome lined up in a few years, since he and wife Jenny have three sons (Charlie—8 years, Max—5 and Sam—3). He joined the staff at Prairie Landing in 2000.

Kasey Vandeberg hails from Merrimack, WI, which is a small town northwest of Madison. He attended

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Key team members at Prairie Landing. From left to right, they are: Tony Nunes, technician; Jeff Pozen, first assistant; Kasey Vandeberg, second assistant; Rogelio Martinez, foreman; and Tony Kalina.



UW-River Falls and studied soil science with an eye on a career in agriculture. Kasey played golf and other sports as a kid growing up in America's Dairyland. Eventually, he decided he wanted to work on the golf side of the ag business to retain his sports interest as part of his career path. Following graduation from UW-River Falls, he took some post-graduate courses in turf management at UW-Madison with Dr. John Stier's guidance. Kasey got his first golf course working experience while in Madison, as an intern at Cherokee Country Club under the tutelage of superintendent George Magnin. Kasey came to Prairie Landing at the start of the 2002 season.



Crew foreman Rogelio Martinez has more than 20 years'

*Trying to hit no. 4 green in regulation?  
This would be your third shot on this par 5.*



Photos by Jim Trzinski

*No. 8 green surrounds. The hole is a 386-yard par 4.*



experience in golf turf maintenance. His father also worked in golf turf, at Carriage Greens G.C. in Darien, where Rogelio started working part-time in the clubhouse as a teenager. He then moved outside and worked for 17 years at Carriage Greens for superintendent Phil Bersin. Rogelio came to Prairie Landing three years ago to take the foreman's position. He is married and has three children ranging in age from 12 to 18 years.

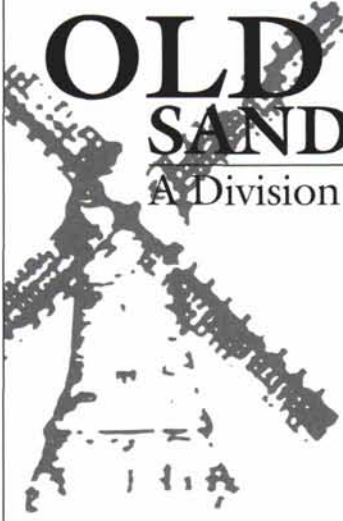
Tony Nunes is in his sixth season as equipment technician at Prairie Landing. Before joining the Prairie Landing team, he worked at the Village Links of Glen Ellyn, where he received extensive knowledge and training from Pat and Tim Kelly. Tony enjoys working on turf as much as he likes working on tractors, and gets out on the course every chance he has.

Tony Kalina and his teammates are very proud of the way that Prairie Landing looks, and more importantly, how it plays on a day-to-day basis. Their philosophy is to maintain the course with an eye on environmental stewardship while causing minimal interference or disturbance to nature. Tony and staff work hard

to educate golfers about turf management and Mother Nature, and try to eliminate common misconceptions about possible harmful effects of standard golf turf maintenance practices. Come by Prairie Landing for the ITF play-day on October 7 and see how they are doing!



*Prairie Landing offers plenty of "wide open spaces." Here, no. 7 green is the culmination of a 598-yard par 5.*



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