

Tim Davis -N-



Shoreacres

ALL PHOTOS BY JIM TRZINSKI



Hole no. 4, a 372-yard par 4.

Believe it or not, Tim Davis originally wanted to be golf pro, but was told that it would be much easier getting a job in the golf business as a superintendent. As such, Tim broke into the business working as a laborer at Plum Tree National. He recalls his first assignment under the late Peter Bilt when, during a single season, he planted 5,000 one-year-old Austrian pines in a nursery on the property. Before long, Tim went to work at Woodstock Country Club for Jim Nulty, a gentleman who would become his brother-in-law. There, Tim eventually became superintendent. In fact, he completed the final two semesters of his plant and soil science degree at Southern Illinois University over one winter while still performing some part-time duties as Woodstock's superintendent. Following graduation, Tim returned to a full-time superintendent role at Woodstock, where he stayed until 1984 and the move east to Shoreacres.



Of all his years in the industry, it was Tim's first season at Shoreacres that he will never forget. He was forced to struggle through this season with a cast on his right leg as a result of rolling a triplex mower while cutting a fairway near one of Shoreacres' many ravines. Tim says that to this day, his employees still will not let him operate equipment!

As Tim sees it, a huge key to his operation's success is his assistant Rafael Arias, who has been at Shoreacres since July of 1986 and who, according to Tim, can "do it all." The biggest maintenance challenge for Tim, Rafael and the crew is the intensive hand-mowing and rotary work around the ravines found on 13 of Shoreacres' 18 holes.

This Harvard, IL and McHenry County native now resides in Mundelein with his wife, Jean. Tim and Jean will celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary later this year. They have two daughters currently attending college; the eldest, Erin, will be a junior at Carroll College in Waukesha, WI. She is a history major with dual minors in Spanish and education. Tim's youngest daughter, Vicki, will be a freshman majoring in marine biology at Florida Institute of Technology in Melbourne, FL. Tim's family also includes Chance, a stray dog he found on the golf course one Sunday morning some 13 years ago.

Hole no. 11 is
a 378-yard par 4.

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Shoreacres is located on Lake Michigan in Lake Bluff. Known for its previously mentioned ravines, the private club was founded in 1916 as a golf and yacht club. Seth Raynor was hired to design the golf course and construction began in 1918 with the course opening in 1921. Shoreacres still possesses all of its original greens, which Tim has been working on for the past 12-13 years to recapture the lost putting-green area. He estimates that during his tenure, 50,000 square feet of putting-green space has been restored, along with a couple of lost bunkers. For the most part, Shoreacres now exists as it was originally laid out, and Tim doesn't expect any major changes in the future as the membership is dedicated to preserving their little piece of history along the lake.

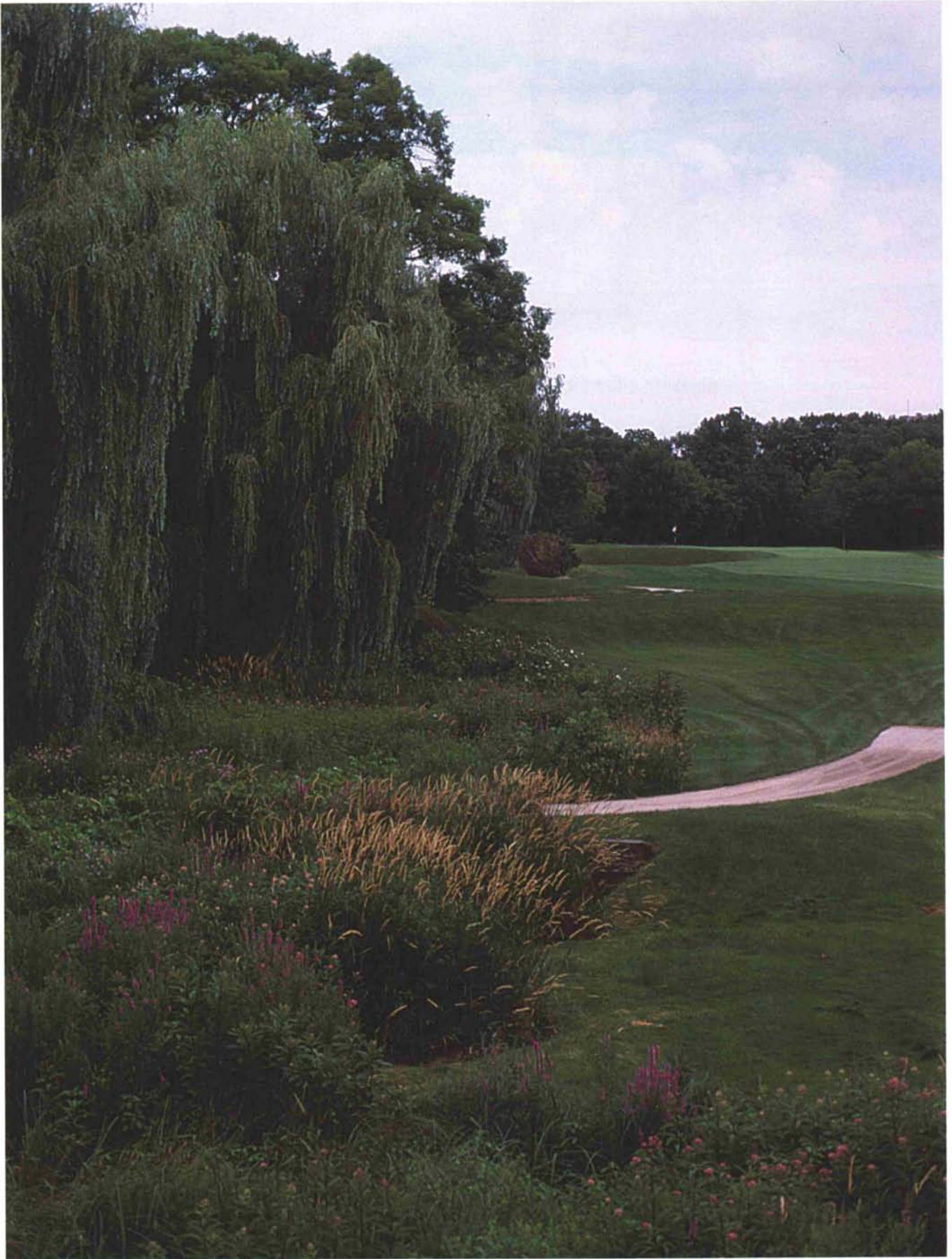


Par-4 no. 13 plays to 332 yards.

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Gorgeous no. 17 at Shoreacres is a 355-yard par 4.