

Don Ferreri -N-



Gerri and Don Ferreri with daughters
(L to R) Brenda, Bridget and Brittany.



SEVEN BRIDGES

G O L F C L U B

The May Illinois Turfgrass Foundation (ITF) fundraising event will take place at Seven Bridges Golf Club, hosted by superintendent Don Ferreri. Seven Bridges, a true but fair test of golf, challenges every player from the first to the eighteenth hole. This Nugent design has water in play on 13 of the 18 holes and can stretch to over 7,100 yards.



No. 17 green, the end of a long par 4.

The name of the game at Seven Bridges is service. From the moment you arrive at the course, through the time your clubs go back in the trunk, you receive truly first-class treatment. My clubs have always left Seven Bridges in far better shape than they arrived.

On a surprisingly warm, although wet, March afternoon, Don and Seven Bridges treated me to a very enjoyable round of golf. My game was incredibly out-of-tune, but the course and the staff were as friendly and pleasurable to be around as the reputation that precedes them. Throughout the day it was remarkable to see how much, after 13 years, Don still enjoys playing his course.

While the course brought me in at a slick 83, Don and I were able to get in some questions and answers. Hopefully, this will afford some insight into the man who has dedicated so much time and energy to our industry.

Brian Baker: How long have you been at Seven Bridges Golf Club?

Don Ferreri: *I was hired in 1987 to help with the development and construction of the golf course. The golf course opened on July 2, 1991.*

BB: In that time, what do you think has been the biggest change in the industry?

DF: *No question, the acceptance of alternative spikes. I cannot even imagine how we tolerated the damage caused by steel spikes.*

BB: Any professional mentors?

DF: *All I could ever hope to learn in golf course maintenance was provided by Art Benson. The man can flat out grow grass. He taught old-school agronomy and was very innovative. He provided country club conditions before most people knew what country club conditions were.*

BB: Through your years at Seven Bridges, what has been your proudest moment as a superintendent?

DF: *I think anytime the grounds crew is given recognition for the outstanding job they perform. I am proud to lead a great team.*

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BB: How about your proudest moment as a father?

DF: *My three daughters provide me new moments almost weekly. Their mother has done a great job.*

BB: As past president of the MAGCS and current president of the ITF, how do you envision the future of those organizations? First the MAGCS?

DF: *I was extremely proud to serve the Association. The Midwest continues to be a leader in the industry as a local chapter; it has more to offer its members than any other in the country. The future is only limited to the imagination of its leaders.*

BB: The ITF?

DF: *What a fantastic time to be leading the ITF. We are taking giant steps forward in our efforts to provide research funding and education to the state of Illinois. The presence of Luke Cella and the Midwest Golf House is providing us many resources and relationships today that were only a dream a few short years ago.*

BB: Favorite hole at Seven Bridges?

DF: *Number 8, because the first seven holes are behind me. At this point in my round it is time to relax. By the way, they are all good.*

BB: What is the best number you have posted at Seven Bridges?

DF: *82, all the stars were lined up.*

BB: I first met you in 1999 when I moved into the Chicago area. Since that time I have been amazed by your Cubs trivia. As an avid Cubs fan, you have more usable knowledge than anyone I know. So who played second base for the Cubs in 1969?


DF: *Glen Beckert, even a Sox fan might know that. On second thought probably not, they don't remember 1969.*

BB: Who played center field in 1974?

DF: *Now there is a year Cubs fans are trying to forget. They were 45 games out of first place. The answer is Rick Monday (protector of the American flag). Ask me a tough one.*

BB: What was your feeling on the Steve Bartman situation during the 2003 Cubs playoffs?

DF: *I am trying to erase it from my memory, thanks for bringing it up. I think a taller left fielder would have caught it. I really wonder why Kyle Farnsworth was pitching as though he had been drinking all day!*

The stage is set at Seven Bridges for May 18th, so get a group together, buy a few extra golf balls (or, if you're the type, a telescoping ball retriever) and come out and support the ITF. 



Going by handicap rating, hole no. 7 is the toughest at Seven Bridges.

THE FERRERI FILE

RESIDENCE

Naperville

FAMILY

Wife Geri; daughters Brenda, Bridget and Brittany

EDUCATION

Joliet Junior College, 1980

INTERNSHIP

Riverside Golf Club, Riverside

ASSISTANT SUPT.

Butterfield Country Club, Oak Brook

HEAD SUPT.

Seven Bridges Golf Club, Woodridge

MAGCS

President in 2000

ITF

Current president

FAVORITE ELECTRONIC DEVICE

Hands down, the remote control

FAVORITE TV STATION

Court TV. If I wasn't a superintendent, I would want a job as a lawyer.

FAVORITE MOVIE

Forrest Gump. Because life is like a box of chocolates.

FAVORITE GOLF COURSE

Augusta National. If I could play one round of golf anywhere, this is it.

FAVORITE OUTSIDE TEMPERATURE

Strange question, I am quite fond of 82°.

VEHICLE

H.G. Wells, Time Machine. How cool would that be?

DINNER GUEST

Pope John Paul II. I would let him say grace.

FOURSOME

Tiger, Bobby Jones and Babe Ruth. Now that would be fun.



(Left) The Seven Bridges grounds crew is "the reason Seven Bridges continues to be one of the best," says Don Ferreri. (Below) No. 9, looking across the east branch of the DuPage River.

