

Richard (Scott) Speiden -N-



The Speidens: Scott and Dawn with children Ashley and Michael.



Where did Richard come from? Who is Richard? What is a Richard Speiden? Before we answer these questions, let's get into Itasca Country Club, host of the 2005 Fall Dinner Dance this November 19.

The course was designed and built in 1925. For many years, the club was the end of the line for the Milwaukee Road Railroad. A roundhouse and servicing yard were built on what is now the site of the club. Itasca was the farthest west suburban commuter run at that time.

The club started with 150 members with annual dues of \$60, payable quarterly. In the fall of 1928, the Lyons family of the Lyons Musical Instrument Company bought Itasca Country Club. They brought into the club the biggest bands of the 1930s, '40s and '50s like Glenn Miller and Count Basie. Itasca Country Club was the site of many elegant balls and elaborate parties. It was the social meeting place for the village. Until the early 1960s, the club held one of two liquor licenses issued by the village. In 1999, the membership bought Itasca Country Club, turning it into a 240-equity membership.

Itasca is a par-72 course, stretching to 6,800 yards, with slope at 137. Being a semiprivate membership, Itasca Country Club holds outings on Mondays and Thursdays during the season, totaling up to 30,000 rounds. Itasca is nestled on 123 acres, centrally located right in the middle of downtown Itasca.

Before Richard "Scott" Speiden found his calling in the golf industry, he ran his own landscaping company and played around with his welding certification, doing work on the Illinois Prairie Path. A young Richard Speiden came to the course as a mechanic under Jim Meyer in 1984. Being a certified small-engine mechanic, Richard went on to acquire his soil science certificate from Ohio State University.

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*No. 7 green at
Itasca Country Club.*

Richard moved up, becoming assistant superintendent in 1987. When Jim Meyer retired in 1996, Richard took over as superintendent of Itasca Country Club. Within three years of him taking over, the members bought Itasca Country Club.

Since becoming a superintendent, Richard has seen few major changes to the club. In the 81 years of the course's existence, Itasca is primarily the course that was built in 1925, including its original greens. Major changes include the modernization of the irrigation system, incorporating the four-tee system to the course, expanding the irrigation lake and adding some needed cart paths. More recently, Richard spearheaded the reconstruction of the sixth and 10th tees on the course. He also introduced and certified the club through Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for golf courses. Clubhouse beautification has also been a recent project including the revamping of the ballrooms, along with men's locker-room facilities. From all the floods to the drainage projects to diseases and drought, Richard has made it through.

Richard has been with Itasca Country Club for 22 years, three of the past years holding the position of director of grounds. Along with the day-to-day functions of the club, Richard's added the new Web page, marketing and new membership sales to his job list.

As he has grown with his jobs at Itasca Country Club, so too has Richard's family. Richard resides in St. Charles with his lovely wife of 18 years, Dawn. She has been his backbone during the new construction projects over the years. The Speidens have two wonderful children, Michael, 16, and Ashley, 14. The family enjoys spending time at their weekend cottage, relaxing and seeking outdoor fun. Scott appreciates his little time there too, when he can, for a day or two during the season.

The fun really starts for Scott (the name most of us know him by) during the first week of November. His favorite time of the year is when he and his "girls" (Jordan the Lab and Jaguar the German shorthair) can get out into the great outdoors to do some pheasant-hunting. Scott gets

the biggest thrill being out with his buddies hunting. He just can't help himself if he has the chance to take a jab, when one of us misses the easiest of shots.

The Itasca Country Club clubhouse that MAGCS will visit in November is, in fact, not the original. The original clubhouse was of colonial design with white walls, a green roof and a veranda running full length of the east side overlooking the course. This clubhouse burnt down in 1935, was rebuilt only to burn again in 1963. It was considered one of the worst fires ever in the village's history. In 1987, the village claimed the area as an historical site. The new clubhouse still possesses the charm of the old. The amenities will show themselves off at this fall's dinner dance in a spectacular fashion.



(Opposite) Itasca's no. 18 is a spectacular finishing hole, playing 424 yards from the blue tees, 434 from the gold with an elevated tee box.

No. 9 tee and no. 8 green.



