

Chuck Anfield -N-



Chuck, Walker, Anmarie, and Daniel Anfield.



HERITAGE BLUFFS **Public Golf Club**

The 2006 MAGCS golf season kicks off this month on the 24th at the beautiful Heritage Bluffs Golf Club in Channahon, Illinois. Now, before you ask, “Where in the world is Channahon, Illinois?” let me assure you it is very easy to find, it’s not far to drive, and you’ll be glad you went. Our first event of the season—as it traditionally is—will be a four-person scramble, allowing us all to kick the dust off our swings and gently ease into golf for 2006. As the title of this article dictates, I’d first like to tell you all a little about the Super.

Chuck Anfield, CGCS, is our host this month, and has been the golf course superintendent at Heritage Bluffs since 1998. It’s been a long trip down a winding road that brought Chuck to Channahon, a journey that started back in his south suburban hometown of Homewood, Illinois. While attending Homewood-Flossmoor High School, Chuck was introduced to the golf maintenance business when he went to work for Rory Bancroft at the Glenwoodie Golf Course in Glenwood in 1976. Chuck went on to earn his first of two college degrees—a BA in Outdoor Education and Environmental Studies—in 1982 from Northland College in Ashland, Wisconsin. While in Wisconsin, Chuck worked on an excursion boat on Lake Superior, where his “legend lived on from the Chippewa on down to the big lake they call Gitchigumi,” acquiring a taste for the life of a sailor. After paying several visits to the nearby U.S. Coast Guard station and talking with the people there, he decided to join in 1984. The Coast Guard sent Chuck to the central Oregon coastal port of Florence as a coxswain for the next four years.

Chuck spent many a liberty weekend at Mount Bachelor, where he took up with the heathen, zinc-lipped ski patrol crowd, honing his downhill skills, a hobby he still enjoys to this day.

Some soul-searching led Chuck on his next mission—that of attaining a BS degree in Horticulture from Oregon State University in 1993 and returning to the world of golf. Upon his triumphant return to the Midwest, Chuck slaved for three years

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as assistant under the tutelage of Les Rutan at Beverly Country Club on Chicago's south side. His next step took him to Steeple Chase Golf Club in Mundelein for his first superintendent's job. Two years later, it was "Channahon here I come" for Chuck.

In and amongst all those bends in the road, Chuck married his wife Annmarie, and the couple had two sons, Daniel, 7, and Walker, 5, both of whom have grown up on the course. With their residence being the farmhouse that exists on the property (and has since the early 1900s), the Anfield family has ample space around them for their favorite activities, one of which, of course, is golf. Chuck is involved with his sons' baseball teams (with hopes that the two southpaws—a highly-regarded commodity in the big leagues—will

one day support dad and mom with huge contracts), and uses his rare free time honing his 4-handicap golf game. What remains of his hobby time is spent thinking about taking



The Anfield's home—nice yard, huh?

one of his three boats out on actual water, the realization of which has proven elusive.

As for the site part of this deal, Heritage Bluffs is a really fun course to play. Opened by the Channahon

Park District in 1993, the Dick Nugent-designed/ Wadsworth-built course meanders through gently sloping oak/hickory savannah in the land "where waters meet."

The waters involved are the DuPage, DesPlaines, and Kankakee rivers, which meet to form the mighty Illinois just south of town. The property itself was both farmland and home to a gravel mining operation. The preponderance of gravel in the soil provides Heritage Bluffs with its excellent drainage, and the mining operation's leavings provided it with many of its most interesting features. The "tailings"—piles of soil and fine gravel left after separating the more desirable large stones—give several holes their unique character, and have been the basis for an ongoing project for Chuck. You see, these very steep,





The beautiful 18th hole with the tell-tale tailings mounds on the left.

severe mounds had, over time, become overgrown with woody plant species like hackberry and buckthorn. In several instances, the growth had interfered with the playability of the course, so Chuck and his staff have undertaken the gradual clearing of the mounds in play and planting them to a fescue blend. The results thus far are fabulous, and allow for shotmaking that was not possible before. The more open areas of the course also have provided the crew with opportunities for improvement. Different types of prairie restoration projects are noticeable throughout the course, as is the addition of pot bunkering to enhance the grass mound features

and provide definition and contrast. Exploring the course gives one the sense of isolation—no homes border it (yet), and wildlife abounds

played a huge role in Mr. Nugent's thought process while conjuring up this beauty. Playing to 7,100 yards from the tips, the course will be set up for our group at around 6,600 yards, with no nasty tricks to slow us down (promises Chuck).

Chuck Anfield and his crew, and the entire staff at Heritage Bluffs Golf Club look forward to the 24th, as we do, and hope to see a big turnout for what promises to be a great day on a great golf course.



One of the many prairie restoration areas shortly after controlled burning in late winter.

throughout. Massive oaks, golden prairies, and boggy wetlands add to the feeling that Mother Nature

