

# Bill Humphres -N-



*The Humphres, Bill and his wife Shoko with daughter Amber.*



*McHenry  
Country Club*

*In 1922 a fine country club was established with nine holes that overlooked the Fox River in McHenry, IL. Construction on the second nine holes began in 1925 and in 1926, a regulation 18-hole facility was presented to the membership for their enjoyment and leisure. The course was played in original form until 1953 when major renovations brought the lengthening of several holes, numerous tree plantings, bunker renovations and improved greens. The club has since remained virtually unchanged except for aesthetic improvements around tee and green complexes.*



*The clubhouse at McHenry CC.*

The man behind the scenes that maintains and dedicates hard work to this beautiful and scenic layout is Bill Humphres. Bill came to McHenry Country Club about eleven years ago as the equipment technician. During his tenure, he also worked outside with the grounds crew and discovered he had a real knack for both turf and machinery. Quickly, he realized he enjoyed working outside as well as inside. While still working at McHenry Country Club Bill earned a degree in turf management from Rutgers. Shortly after completing his studies he became ideal candidate to take over the helm as superintendent. Bill has been in charge at McHenry Country Club for the past four years. He is continuing in the footsteps of his mentor, Bob Lively.

While he is not busy working, Bill likes to go for rides on his 2005 Harley Davidson Road King Classic. However, he spends most of his free time with his family. His wife, Shoko, and daughter, Amber, are the receivers of much fond attention and precious time. Amber keeps Bill and his wife busy with the life of a seven year-old daughter that is involved with gymnastics and swim meets. Bill has been on many trips to Japan and enjoys all aspects of the country including the food stating that sushi is probably his favorite type of food.

When asked for some fun facts and interesting information about the golf course, Bill advised for all of us playing the golf course this August a few pointers:

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First, beware of the dogleg in the second fairway. There is a large oak tree at the corner that practically plays in the middle of the fairway. The tree can make second shots very difficult. Good luck to anyone that is misfortunate enough to be directly behind it.

Second, the thirteenth green is a fun optical illusion. Putts look uphill but they are actually downhill. So, putting from the front of the green will actually be downhill even though the large hill behind the green makes you think otherwise. This has been verified by Bill and his crew with a transit.

Finally a small but important piece of golf history comes out of McHenry, IL. McHenry Country Club has a link to one of the most important pioneers in today's modern game of golf. Vale Adams was the golf pro at McHenry C.C. from 1962 to 1981 and continues as a member of the course today. His son, Gary V. Adams was the innovator of the modern metal wood, founding Taylor Made Golf, which was originally located in McHenry. Gary Adams went on to found two more companies featuring metal woods-Founders Club and McHenry Metals. The walking bridge on the signature 8th hole is dedicated to the memory of Gary



*The oak tree on the dogleg #2 at McHenry as seen from the back of the green.*

Adams. Stop and take a picture if you get a chance to commemorate the improvement in your golf bag over the historic persimmon wood club heads.

I got a real sense while talking with Bill that the membership of McHenry Country Club is a very tight-knit and friendly group. Bill's

favorite part about working at McHenry Country Club is the wonderful membership. They are good, family-oriented, hard working people and take good care of each other. Furthermore, Bill is fortunate to have a good group of employers. He explains, they sure can make it easier to go to work even during the long hot days of summer. Bill enjoys his profession and it shows in the product he produces. Bill feels the hardest part about managing this course (or any course) is not even course related. The most difficult thing Bill faces, as most superintendents, is the impact this profession has in our family lives and relationships. Especially during a more than regular tough season, the impact on family can be difficult to manage. Thankfully a shortened golf season and the opportunity to travel can help to make up for those summer short-comings.

One final thing that needs to be emphasized and was asked that it be included as it is the most important piece to this brief introduction; Bill would like to "thank all the people for the chances and opportunities to learn and grow in this business and be at McHenry Country Club – and a special thank you to Bob Lively."



*The Gary Adams Memorial Bridge.*

*Adams is honored with this bridge and founder of the Taylor Made Golf the company that started the metal wood phenomena in golf.*



*The first hole at McHenry CC from the tee. The water on the right is the Fox River.*



*The thirteenth par 4 at McHenry CC.*



*The functioning water fountain on the par 4, twelfth hole at McHenry CC.*