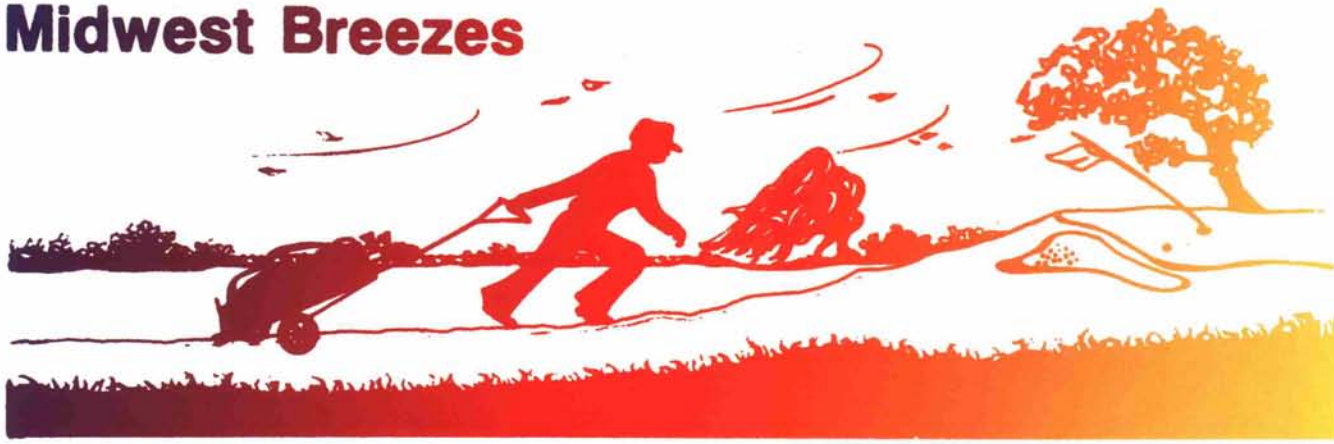
Brad Anderson, CGCS *Associate Editor*

Midwest Breezes



New Irrigation and April Showers, Bring Deerpath May Flowers

When the Director of Parks for the city of Lake Forest asked Craig Joscelyn what his biggest need was on the golf course, Craig indicated that the club was due for a new irrigation system.

Craig was operating with one of the oldest functioning automated systems in Chicago: a hydraulically-controlled system originally installed in 1968. In the process of obtaining funding for new irrigation, two additional upgrades were planned for Deerpath.

"We had been receiving negative feedback about the bunkers in our golfer surveys. After rainfall the bunkers would hold water and the sand texture was inconsistent throughout the golf course," said Craig. "Another issue of concern was surface drainage. There has been a lot of development to the north and west of the golf course, and tremendous volumes of water are moving across the property after the rains."

During the permitting and funding stages of the project, Craig was the point-man in bringing multiple agencies and contractors together including the Illinois EPA, Bleck Engineering, Applied Ecological Sciences, Army Corps of Engineers, The Friends of the Chicago River and The Lake County Stormwater Management Commission – all were involved.

After Labor Day 2005, the project began. A new Rainbird system was installed by Midwest Irrigation, the same company which installed the original water system in 1968.

All of the 55 bunkers on the golf course were remodeled, and eight more fairway bunkers were added.

(continued on page 13)

The 175 yard par 3, 5th hole at Deerpath Golf Course. Large Cottonwood trees encroaching on the left side of the hole and the Skokie River in foreground.

5th hole as construction begins and cottonwoods are absent. Pond excavation and weir structure are underway.

Todd Quitno, of Lohmann Golf Designs, designed the new bunkering bringing the golf course up-to-date with contemporary distances and playing conditions.

A water management system was built by Ryan Incorporated Central, beginning with the construction of a wetlands on the western edge of the golf course, which captures the surface run-off as it enters the club property. The wetlands are designed to filter the surface run-off before it passes into a system of ponds, which eventually overflow through a stone weir into the River Canal on the eastern edge of the golf course.

As the work progressed, the golf course remained open to normal rounds of play, and the staff received few complaints from the golfing public.

The two biggest things which Craig valued through the project were the dependability of his staff to manage things while he was absorbed in the details of the project, and also the importance of effective communication, especially during the planning stages as everybody was involved up front.

View from green to tee.

Course stays open throughout whole project. Golfers and machinery mingling.

5th hole. Moving along.

Beautifying the weir with ledge rock.

All that remains is pond fill and grow in.

(continued on page 15)