

# Chris Painter -N-



Chris, Heather and Zachary enjoying the White Sox season.



## Sunshine Through Golf Foundation

*Chris Painter's golf course career path started early. Starting under Mike Nass at Bryn Mawr Country Club as an equipment technician in 1984, he continued to work with Mike at Cantigny from 1987-1991, with Tony Rzadski from 1991-1995 and with Scott Witte from 1995-2002. Chris wore a lot of hats at Cantigny.*

*The most interesting adjustment that Chris has had to make at the Sun-shine Course has been the fact that he is now cultivating disease as well as turf.*

He started out as the turf equipment technician, became a plant health care technician and finally earned the roll of assistant superintendent at the Youth Links in 1997. During Chris's time at Cantigny, he studied hard and completed his studies in Turfgrass Management at Joliet Junior College.

In 2002, Chris got his first head superintendent position at Downers Grove Golf Club where he stayed until 2005. Since then, Chris has been at the CDGA's Three-Hole Sunshine Course serving as Superintendent and Facility Manager.

As a true south-sider, Chris is a proud White Sox fan and resides in Chicago. He is currently in the process of building a home in Lockport with his girlfriend Heather and her son Zachary. Chris has been performing the roll of contractor for the home, and has encountered many challenges along the way.

He has always been a "jack of all trades", and is always the guy to call when I get stuck on a project. No matter what the challenge, I always admire Chris's "can do attitude".

Chris's "jack of all trades" abilities have served the CDGA well as he is always helping out with various projects throughout the grounds and facilities at Midwest Golf House. You might find him repairing light fixtures, working with the HVAC system or acting as an intermediary for the CDGA meeting with several contractors.

The most interesting adjustment that Chris has had to make at the Sun-shine Course has been the fact that he is now cultivating disease as well as turf.

"It's always interesting to see Randy Kane and Lee Miller's eyes light up when they've got some good dollar-spot or brown patch brewing," said Painter. Chris just has to restrain himself and look the other way as the pathogens do their thing. He waits patiently until Randy and Lee agree it is time to spray.

Chris admits the best part of his job is being able to see some things you normally do not get to see as a superintendent. He gets to see first hand how all the different varieties of turf respond to normal and extreme conditions. Much can be learned from watching the natural progression of turfgrass diseases in different varieties of turf.

There also are times when Chris goes on site visits with Randy and Lee.

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It helps for him to see that as superintendents.

“We are all kind of the same”, Painter said. “We all face the same challenges from time to time, and we all get stuck once in a while. It is based on the realization that mother-nature has a tendency to keep any superintendent second-guessing from time to time.”

Chris thinks it is a joy to see other superintendent’s willingness to give Randy and Lee a call for some back-up and take advantage of CDGA’s ability to help.

Chris is a big believer in learning by doing. He has gained tremendous experience over the last 22 years by working with individuals from whom he knew he could learn.

He especially enjoys working with Carl Hoppman. Carl is the Director of Development for the Illinois Turfgrass Foundation. Chris has a tremendous amount of respect for the energy and passion that Carl brings to the table on a day to day basis. Seeing Carl’s relentless pursuit of his vision for excellence at the Sunshine Course has really inspired him.

“It’s easy to get energized when I’m around Carl,” Painter affirms.

When Chris is not spending time on the golf course, he escapes his normal routine by going to his house in Silver Lake, Mich. Of course there is never a shortage of projects for Chris to dive into.

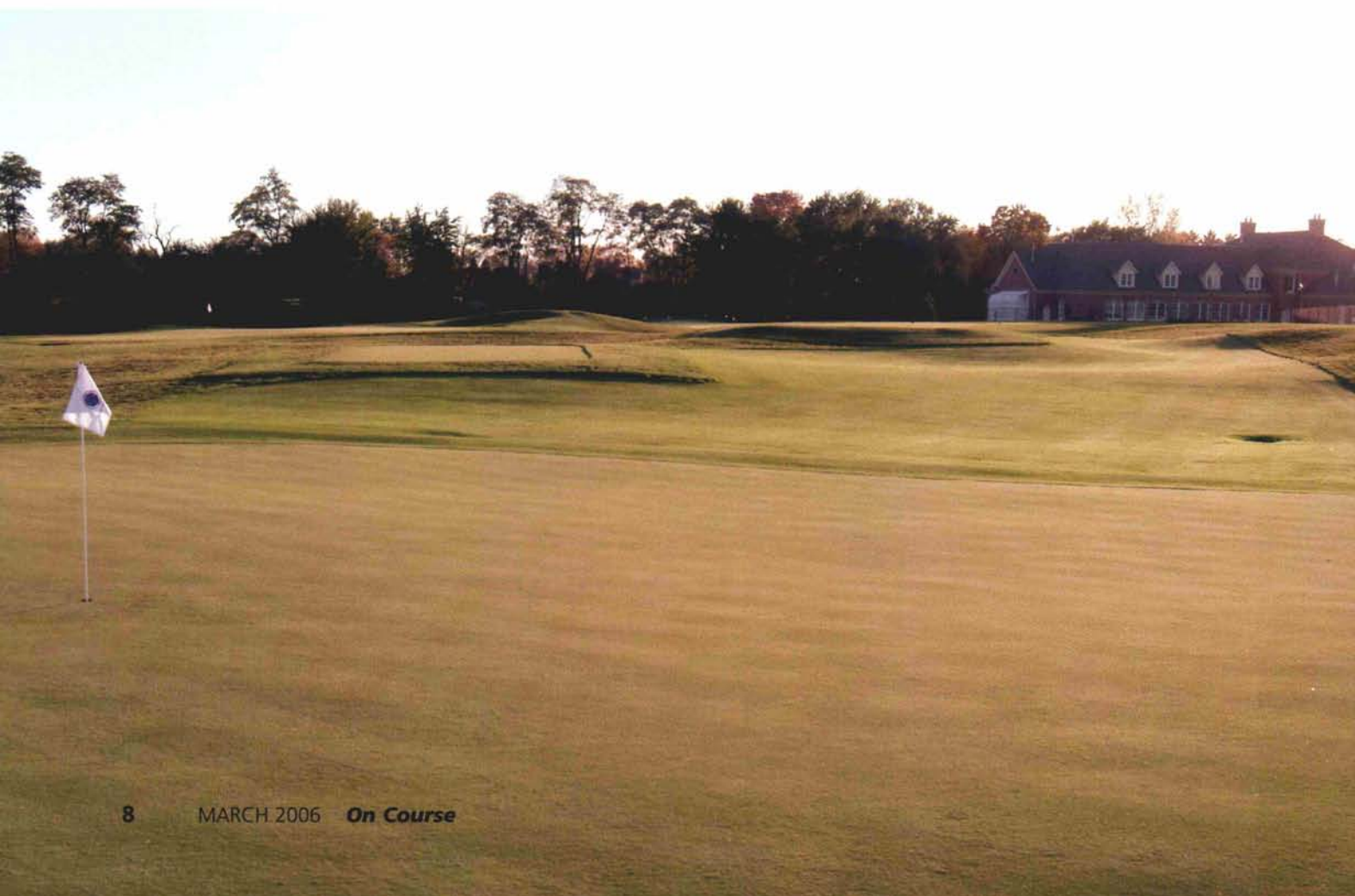
This wonderful getaway retreat has been Chris’s special project over the last several years. He has spent countless hours refining his creation for himself and those closest to him.

So while we are on the topic of “those closest to him.” I’ll take the time to say that I have known Chris for eleven years now. Not only has Chris been a joy to work with, but he’s always been a great friend with whom I enjoy spending “time away from turf!”

Thank you for that Chris. We’ll see you at Midwest Golf House.



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