

Dave Behrman, CGCS -N-



*The Behrman's at last year's Cougar game.
(Zachary, Benjamin, Chris, Dave & Taylor)*



On the Southside in Midlothian, lies one of the oldest golf courses in the country, Midlothian Country Club founded in 1898. Herbert J. Tweedie originally designed the private club as an old traditional links course with narrow fairways and strategic water features. Over time, more than 1800 trees were planted on the property creating scenic corridors for play. The terrain is flat with gradual inclines, but don't let it fool you, this quiet little country club was host to the U.S. Open in 1914. In fact, Midlothian Country Club has hosted several events including the Hagen Invitational in 1939, the Victory Open in 1948, and the Western Open in 1969 and 1973. In the early days Midlothian was the club of the who's who of Chicago and this month you have a chance to play this great gem of the Southside.



*Bunker renovations at Midlothian CC
designed by Lohmann Golf Designs.*

Midlothian Country Club is rare for another reason, Dave Behrman, CGCS is only the fourth Superintendent in the club's 108 year history. For nearly 80 years the Duehr family oversaw the maintenance operation and now Dave is starting his 11th year at Midlothian Country Club. Growing up in Tinley Park, Dave started his career path at the age of 15 by working for Dudley Smith at Silver Lake Country Club. Dave attended Penn State and graduated in 1978 after an internship at Flossmoor Country Club. Dave immediately took his first Superintendent position at Deer Creek Golf Course in University Park. That same year, Dave was elected to the Board of Directors of the MAGCS and eventually became the youngest President in 1986 at the age of 29. After completing eleven seasons at Deer Creek, Dave made the step to Riverside Country Club in fall of 1988. While at Riverside, Dave spearheaded a master renovation plan which he oversaw until he left for Midlothian Country Club in 1996. During this same time, Dave also served on the ITF board for 8 years from 1987-1995. Certified for 20 years, Dave has been a devoted member of the GCSAA and MAGCS and is always looking to advance the turf profession.

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Since Dave has been at Midlothian Country Club, he has helped regenerate the status of the club and the turf management program. Dave said the hardest sale he had to make was convincing the greens committee to spend \$10,000 on Architect Bob Lohmann for a course evaluation. At that time, the membership and green committee felt the club was in excellent condition. After multiple site visits with Bob and a few years of discussion the implementation of a Master Plan was set into motion. Over the past 9 years Midlothian welcomed the construction of a new clubhouse and the installation of a new irrigation system all while Dave and his staff replaced the entire sub-surface drainage system, rebuilt 15 of the 18 tees, and oversaw the dredging of 4 of the 5 water features on



A view from the clubhouse at the historic Midlothian CC.

the course. Most recently, in the spring of 2004 the course was reopened after a complete bunker renovation with design work done by Lohmann Golf Design and construction completed by Golf Creation and Hollembeak Construction. This project was featured in Golf Course News and earned recognition as a finalist for private club renovation of the year. Dave is quick to note it

wouldn't be possible without his devoted staff of 22 and especially his Assistant of 5 years Rob Lewis.

The Berhman family includes Dave's wife of 23 years, Chris and their three children. Their two sons attended the University of Illinois, Zachary, 21 is a senior studying economics and Benjamin is 19 pursuing a degree in advertising. Their daughter, Taylor is 16 and attends Andrew High School in their home town of Tinley Park. Dave is looking forward to finishing his accomplished career at Midlothian Country Club and looks forward to hosting the May ITF/MAGCS meeting on the 22nd.



