

MIDWEST BREEZES

Brad Anderson, CGCS, Associate Editor



Naperville Country Club, Tim Anderson

These days the members of Naperville Country Club are thoroughly enjoying a new golf course - literally.

Architect Steve Forest has relocated thirteen golf holes, stretching the course from what was formerly a 6,450 yard par 71 to a 6,800 yard par 72; during the scope of this project 90 acres out of 124 were worked as dirt; 150 large trees were transplanted with a 100-inch tree spade; every green is new, with really interesting and challenging false fronts on four holes; there are all new bunkers, some located in the center of the fairways requiring forced carries; all new tees; a new 1,400 head irrigation system and 1,900 GPM pump house, providing near wall to wall coverage.

Indeed there is so little left of the original Naperville Country Club golf course and infrastructure that it could be legitimately placed in the category of new construction.

The greens were seeded to A-1. Alpha was added to the seeding in the collars for enhanced wear tolerance. Where the putting surface and approaches meet Tim has provided his mower operators with 25 x 3 foot rolls of matting for turning the walking green and the walking approach mowers. This method has worked exceptionally well to mitigate wear patterns. Tim is currently using a matting material that his mechanic had

purchased from Grainger for absorbing floor oil. This material is light and does not hold moisture as heavy carpet rolls generally do.

The square tees were built with a 7:2:1 mix and drainage tile. Tim chose T1 turf for its strong recuperative ability. Tim reports that even on the practice tee the T1 is holding up exceptionally well. The T1 has required topdressing every two weeks however or it can get puffy.

The fairways were seeded to Pennlinks II and Pennegale II. Tim chose this mixture based on the NTEP trials at Midwest Golf House.

The quarter to half flashed bunkers are filled with Tour-grade Signature Series Bunker Sand. They are grassed with bluegrass maintained at 4 inches using self-propelled rotary push mowers with grass catchers. The throat of the fairway and approach bunkers are grassed with hand-mown bent to the very edge of the sand. This unique feature makes the bunkers play much larger - we may be seeing more of this design element in golf course architecture in the future.

It's a good thing that our President Tim Anderson didn't have any other big responsibilities to distract him during all of this work. **-OC**



Tim hired Precision Aerial Photo of Indiana for a flat fee to document the progress throughout the project. Tim learned that Naperville sits under flight patterns for Midway and O'Hare and flights above the property were not always possible depending on air traffic.

(continued on next page)



Naperville Country Clubs Renovation Clockwise from Upper Left: #3, #18 and #15. Though Tim Anderson, CGCS didn't have to worry about growing turf in the latter half of 2006 he now looks forward to a normal year starting in the Spring of 08 as his construction projects are wrapped up.