

SUPER -N- SITE

Joe Schneider, *Black Sheep Golf Club*

Mike Siefken -N-



Since 2002, Michael Siefken has been at the helm of Sportsman's Country Club and the par 3 Anetsburger Golf Course. Located along busy Dundee Road, Sportsman's Country Club is a quick escape into a quiet urban setting. Built in 1931 and designed by architect Edward Dearie Jr., Sportsman's is a great addition to the Northbrook Park District. Dearie Jr. worked for Donald Ross, and it is evident after playing the golf course. The golf course hosts many leagues and the Northbrook Park District prides itself on offering this facility to their residents.

Mike caught the golf maintenance bug at Meadowbrook Country Club in Northville, Michigan, while on his summer breaks in high school. He loved working outside and decided to pursue a career in golf. While attending Michigan State University, he achieved his Bachelors degree in Science with an emphasis in Crop and Soil Sciences. Soon afterwards, Mike started at Calumet Country Club as an Assistant Superintendent. One year later he moved on to Skokie Country Club. Mike then moved on to Sunset Ridge Country Club before making the jump to Golf Course Superintendent at Woodstock Country Club. Mike stayed at Woodstock Country Club through the summer of 2001, before starting his tenure at Sportsman's Country Club. Mike has been a GCSAA member for 19 years and is a currently a director on the MAGCS board.

There have been many changes at Sportsman's under Mike's watch. From 2005-2006, Mike oversaw the renovation of the bunkers and greens. The course was split in half for the renovation completing one half in 2005 and finishing the rest in 2006. Both Wadworth and Ryan construction companies were used for the work but each followed the renovation plans by architect Rick Jacobsen. The course looks better than ever. All greens were regressed with A-4. The bunkers were rebuilt and now have fescue facing. While they were at it, they also re-contoured the fairways. Throughout the property you will see many no-mow natural areas that Mike has developed to cut down on mowing. In his stewardship to the environment, Mike has also designated areas around ponds that are not treated with plant protectants.

If that wasn't enough, Mike also oversaw the renovation of the Anetsburger Golf Course. Following architect Rick Jacobsen's plans, Bruce Company renovated the entire 9-hole course. To fin-

ish it all off, Mike helped on the design of the new 2.2 million maintenance building. During the design, Mike learned that there was more than meets the eye with building a new building. Dealing with permits and codes really gave Mike a better understanding of the building process. This building is the first step in the transformation of the entire clubhouse area. The old maintenance facility used to be a bowling alley and still stands on the property. Now that Mike and his crew have a new home, the rest of the renovation to the clubhouse and grounds can begin. The master plan includes removing the old now abandoned maintenance building and shifting the parking lot closer to the course.

When Mike gets away from the course, he spends time with his wife Kristin and 10-year old daughter Abigail. He enjoys coaching Abigail's softball team and rooting for the southsiders, the White Sox. Even a greater fan of the Sox than he, his wife Kristin wanted to move away from the area when the Cubs swept them in the earlier this year. Although he spends many days working on the course, he still loves to get out and hit the links when he can.

Mike feels that attracting, training and retaining good employees is the most challenging aspect of his job. He also feels that we need to get more kids involved with junior golf to increase interest and keep the golf industry in the right direction.

MAGCS thanks Mike and Sportsman's Country Club for hosting this year's August Meeting. We look forward to seeing the changes and challenges the golf course will provide our members.

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The Siefken's, daughter Abigail, Kirstin and Mike on the Southside.