

MIDWEST BREEZES

Charles Anfield, CGCS, *Heritage Bluffs Golf Course*



“What’s New with the New Guys?”

Midwest Breezes was recently running through the 2008 membership directory and found some new names and some familiar names in new places with new jobs. So we checked in with four members and said “hey, what’s new?”

Question 1: *What has been your biggest challenge or adjustment in your new job?*

Question 2: *What is the best thing about your new job?*

Question 3: *What future plans do you have with your new job?*

Andy Weadge, Morris Country Club

Our first stop was to Morris Country Club to visit with Andy Weadge. Andy comes from five years as an Assistant Superintendent at Black Sheep Club. This is his first position as a Golf Course Superintendent.

It probably is just the unfamiliarity of working at a new club. I’m trying to learn a new course, with new turf varieties, meeting and learning about new people.

I would say, taking the knowledge of my school experience, my Assistant experience and putting it all together to manage a golf course on my own. I get to implement my own ideas and thoughts.

I’m working to get the greens into a sound management program. I’m also working on improving the clubhouse landscaping. Another project I’m proposing is to make improvements to our practice facility.

Luke Strojny, Prairie Bluff Golf Club

Our next stop was to visit with former MAGCS President Luke Strojny who is now Superintendent at Prairie Bluff Golf Club. Luke came from a 25 year tenure at Poplar Creek Golf Club.

The acreage of Prairie Bluff is so much larger than what I’m used to. Poplar Creek is 120 acres and Prairie Bluffs is 238 acres. The travel times and logistics of just getting around are so different. The exposure of the course is also a new challenge to manage. There just aren’t as many trees. Prairie Bluff is so wide open, the turf tends to dry out much quicker. I’ve had to adjust my irrigation strategy.

There are so many nice people in the Lockport Park District organization. It’s a smaller organization than what I was used to. It’s so exciting to work at a new course after being at one course for so long. It’s also been great to have Kenny Shepherd around. His shop is right next door and we have a great working relationship.

We’re looking at some new irrigation projects. I’m looking at trying to improve on some of the details and just continuing to work on what Ken was already doing.

Michael Heustis, Chicago Highlands

We move on to the meet the new Superintendent at the currently being created course, Chicago Highlands. Michael Heustis, moves after two and a half years as an Assistant Superintendent at Chicago Golf Club and takes his first head job.

The most difficult thing I deal with is coordinating the different contractors who have different agendas and different personalities. My objective is to keep everyone moving forward toward a common goal.

The most gratifying thing for me is that someone trusted me enough to hire me to do this job. I’m flattered to be given this opportunity and be a major component of such a large endeavor. I’m learning so much new stuff.

There’s so much. But overall my main objective is to get the irrigation system installed and on line so we can grow grass after the shaping and seedbed preparation is completed. We are shooting for a summer 2009 opening.

Curtis Tyrell, Medinah Country Club

The last stop we make is to Medinah Country Club. Curtis Tyrell has recently moved here from Fox Winds Golf Club, a 36 hole golf course in Connecticut.

I think most of the challenges are yet to be uncovered. I’m trying to get a feel for how things work and the growing conditions here in the Midwest. The size and scope of the property are also a challenge.

The challenge of my new position and the team operation that this job requires is very exciting. We’re developing new plans to make some course improvements.

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We're looking at renovating course #2. We are looking to redo the bunkers, renovate the tees and improve some drainage. We've also going to expand and improve the practice facility and short game area. Once I get my feet grounded I plan on attending some meetings and become active in the MAGCS. **-OC**



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