

SUPER -N- SITE

Virgil Range, Aurora Country Club

Tony Kalina, Eric Mundt, -N- Travis Dykstra



PRAIRIE LANDING

Prairie Landing Golf Club (PLGC) is an upscale 18-hole public golf facility located in West Chicago, Illinois, on the site of the historic 1868 McChesney Home. It is the only Robert Trent Jones Jr. design in Chicago's west suburbs to be named a "Five Star premiere golf experience." Construction started in 1990 by G. A. Blocker and Greenscapes, Ltd., and the course opened for play in July of 1994. Its amenities include a full practice range as well as two complete par 4 practice holes. Prairie Landing features undulating, wide fairways amongst a meandering waterway and dramatic fescue-covered mounds. Bunkering is extensive and strategic, and wind is a huge factor on the mostly open layout. The greens are relatively large, offering many challenging hole locations, and the five sets of tee placements provide a variety of yardages for all levels of expertise.

Golf Course Superintendent and MAGCS president, Tony Kalina, has been patrolling the grounds at PLGC since 1991. Because he has hosted previous MAGCS events and has been featured in this segment before, I am going to introduce you to two key members of his staff—assistant superintendents **Eric Mundt** and **Travis Dykstra**.

Eric Mundt was born 37 years ago in Aurora, Illinois. His immediate family is his girlfriend of 11 years, Stephanie, his 13-year old daughter, and their pet cat. Eric is a Joliet Junior College graduate with a major in Agriculture and Turf Management. He began his career in golf course management as an intern for Jeff Brinegar at Rich Harvest Farms in 1999. Following that, he moved over to Medinah Country Club where he worked for Tom Lively. At Medinah, he was happy to have been a part of the course 3 renovation in 2003. In 2007, Eric came to Prairie Landing to work for Tony Kalina.

Eric's love of the outdoors and a deep respect for the game of golf were the keys in his choosing this career. He believes that golf's test of focus and mental fortitude are important traits to have in our profession. He carries an 8 handicap and loves playing at Prairie Landing, though he also has a soft spot in his heart for Fox Bend Golf Course where he played as a youngster. In



Eric Mundt and Travis Dykstra

addition to golf, Eric enjoys bicycling, running, fishing, woodworking, and following college football and hoops. His plans for the future include becoming a superintendent, marriage, more children, a bigger house (get one now—they're cheap!), adding a dog to the family, and improving his golf game.

Travis Dykstra was born in Sibley, Iowa and is 25 years young. He and his wife Brooke have 2 dogs—a black lab named Oakley and a German Shepherd mix named Bodhi. He graduated in May 2006 from Iowa State University with a degree in horticulture and an emphasis on Turfgrass Science. Travis got his start

in the golf business at Sibley Golf and Country Club under superintendent Stephen Roseberry. He also gained experience at Veenker Memorial in Ames, Iowa and at the Yellowstone Club in Big Sky, Montana. He then moved to The Reserve at Moonlight Basin, also in Big Sky, before coming to Prairie Landing in 2007.

Travis started young in the business and has been hooked ever since. He finds pleasure in seeing golfers enjoying themselves on the course that he works so hard to prepare. Of the many difficulties he faces in his job, Travis feels that striving to be more efficient each day is one of the greatest challenges, especially in our current economy. His plans for the immediate

(continued on page 6)



Prairie Landing Golf Course, with the striking clubhouse in the background, was one of the first links style courses to be constructed in Chicagoland in the modern era.

PALATINE OIL CO., INC.

**Over thirty-four years of caring service
and delivery of quality products**



"One call does it all"



847-358-3600

P.O. Box 985, Palatine, IL 60078

future are to build a house in Montgomery that he and Brooke will share for many years to come.

There are several planned upgrades and projects at Prairie Landing. These include the renovation of all bunkers and experimenting with *Poa annua* eradication on greens. Several new products and cultural methods are being tested, and the staff looks forward to the results this spring. Also in the plans are new irrigation satellites, cart path renovations, clubhouse improvements, and replacement of the entire fleet of golf cars.

Tony, Eric, and Travis look forward to hosting the April MAGCS meeting and hope for a big turnout. We thank them in advance for their generosity and hard work in preparing the course for us this month. **-OC**



Bayer Environmental Science

John Turner
Sr. Sales Specialist - Golf

Tel: 630-443-7807
Fax: 630-443-7839
Mobile: 630-215-6110
john.turner@bayercropscience.com



**When a hole in one
isn't a good thing
UPM is!**

Call BTSI for UPM availability
at (800) 732-9401



LOHMANN COMPANIES

MARENGO, ILLINOIS □ 815.923.3400
PEORIA, ARIZONA □ 623.322.7189
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA □ 703.986.3417
www.lohmanncompanies.com

Distinctive. Innovative. Memorable.



**GOLF COURSE ARCHITECTURE
& PROJECT MANAGEMENT**

Building on Experience



GOLFCREATIONS

**GOLF COURSE CONSTRUCTION,
RENOVATION & RESTORATION**

**Professional Construction for
Maximum Performance**



**SPORTS FIELD CONSTRUCTION
& RENOVATION**