

## Ken Lapp -N-

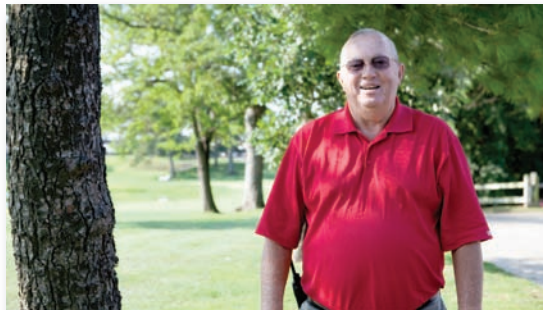


## Millions of Rounds Under His Belt and Still Counting

*Ken Lapp has been a golf course superintendent for the past 54 years. At 73, he still enjoys what he does, he must. At an age when most are well into their retirement, Ken is looking forward to hosting his 18th PGA tour event with new anticipation. Coghill's #4, Dubsdread, just reopened this spring after a complete renovation that began the day after hosting his last PGA event, the BMW Championship in September of 2007. With a few finishing touches, the course is ready and waiting. Ken defers the success of the project to the weather and staff, "We caught a break", but those in the know, understand a large part of the accomplishment was due to Ken's ability to manage. Ken has never been afraid to ask questions and seek answers, a trait most admired and one not so common these days.*

Ken began his career working for his father, Amos Lapp at St. Andrews in West Chicago, and soon found himself the golf course superintendent at Fresh Meadow in Hillside at the age of 19. Trusted at such an early age, young Kenny proved himself to be a hard worker, a quick learner and a value to the industry. After 18 years at Fresh Meadow, Ken headed to his current course(s) at Cog Hill in 1973. Ken has worked for the Jemsek family his whole career, from St. Andrews to Fresh Meadow and still at Cog Hill. When asked how many rounds of golf he has provided through his efforts, he told me, "to be honest, I never thought of that as a number." Doing the quick math, I replied it has to be many millions, a milestone that few will ever reach. Ken eschewed responding in his humble way.

Ken oversees the four golf courses at Cog Hill. Many of his 75 staff members have been with him since the early to mid 80's (some longer than that!), a testament to his kind demeanor and forthrightness. Never wanting to overstep his bounds, Ken is very modest man and defers credit and praise away when often he is the one responsible. In a conversation about hosting the many PGA and other national events (A U.S. Amateur, a couple of Men's Public Links and a Women's Public Links) Ken stated, "The guys know what to do, they just start getting ready for the tournament. Often, they remind me of what needs to be done".



*Ken Lapp, Golf Course Superintendent of Cog Hill, father of 3 and grandfather of 5, is at home on the golf course.*

This year, it will be all-new, and many are looking forward to it. Previously rated, at 73.8 "Dubs" from the tips played to 6,945 yards with a slope of 139. Emerging from the hand of Rees Jones, it now boasts 7,616 yards, a rating of 78.1 and a slope of 152. Each hole has seven sets of square tees, deepened bunkers, new sand, and elevated and intriguing putting surfaces. Gone are any drainage issues with the installation of a SubAir system under each surface that will allow Ken to get things firm and fast. Still learning the ins and outs of the SubAir, Ken is excited to have this system at his disposal. Ken told me 1,888,808 square feet of bluegrass sod was planted, a number that helped them to open the course this past spring. When I toured the renovation last fall, I found myself taking a picture of the putting surface admiring the purest stand of bentgrass (A1/A4) I have ever seen.

When I ran into Ken, he was happy with the project and the way it all came together. He said he was a bit tentative taking the reins prior to the start but found it to be invigorating and fun. Ken enjoyed working with Rees Jones and all those on the project and in typical Ken Lapp fashion gives all the accolades away. It will be our honor and privilege to play Dubsdread ten days before the BMW Championship commences. We look forward to playing one of Chicagoland's most famous golf courses this month. Thank you Ken for making this possible. **-OC**