

SUPER -N- SITE

Steven Biehl, Naperville Country Club

Mark Kowaliczko -N- Joliet Country Club

A sunny day trimming bunker edges, trimming around trees, chasing quick couplers around the course while irrigating through the night is a typical day for Mark Kowaliczko at Joliet Country Club...while he was in high school.

Mark grew up across the street from Big Run Golf Course. However, when it came time for the requisite high school job, his father knew Ted Mochel, and that led Mark to the Joliet Country Club. Those early years at Joliet Country Club, under Ted's watchful eye, may have seemed trivial at the start, but they eventually led to a career in the golf industry, including the title of Past President of the Chicagoland Association of Golf Course Superintendents (CAGCS).

Joliet Country Club is one of the oldest clubs in the Chicago area, founded in 1905. It was a 9-hole golf course until the early 1920s, when another nine holes were added. Only minor changes have been made since then. The biggest came only a few years ago when a clubhouse construction project required the reworking of a few holes.

Mark's high school job made an impression. His love for working on the course finally won out over the Biology degree he was working toward at Loyola. He transferred to University of Illinois to pursue a career in the golf industry. Upon completion of his degree, he was awarded the assistant superintendent position at Bryn Mawr Country Club under Mike Nass. Mark spent four years as the assistant at Bryn Mawr before he moved back to Joliet Country Club, this time as superintendent, in September of 1986.



Mark Kowaliczko

In his office, Mark's golf clubs are in the corner, in case there's an urge to golf. A stack of books on the shelf hints at a love of reading. A closer look reveals titles about Abraham Lincoln, giving away Mark's interest in the history of the United States. But, the most imposing thing in his office is the large picture of his kids. Mark and his wife Diana have four sons. Their oldest, Zenon, is graduating from high school in just a few months. Zach is a sophomore and has started playing golf, which Mark admits has led him to play a little more often. Mark and Diana's twin sons, Christian and Chandler, are in seventh grade and keep them busy

between volleyball and gymnastics.

Mark got started in the golf industry like so many others – he worked on a golf course during high school. He is still in the industry for the same reasons that many others are – he enjoys being outside as well as the collegial relationship among superintendents. On April 27th head to Joliet Country Club and enjoy being outside in a collegial atmosphere. **-OC**

