

# Jason Lemanski -N-

Photo by Brian Baker



Wisconsin native Jason Lemanski.

## WATER'S EDGE GOLF CLUB

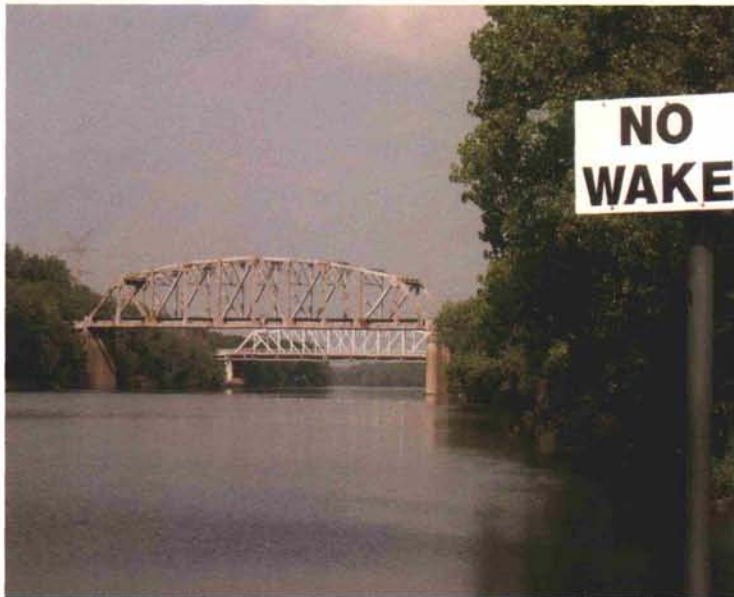
*The MAGCS August golf meeting will head south to the Rick Robbins- and Gary Koch-designed Water's Edge Golf Club. Opened to great praise in 1999, Water's Edge, as its name implies, lies right along the Cal-Sag Channel in Worth, Illinois. Jason Lemanski, our host superintendent, describes the facility as a modern woodlands course that features a fun yet challenging layout.*

The course, which can stretch to nearly 7,000 yards, plays to a par 72 with a slope of 131 and a course rating of 72.9. At Water's Edge, the golfer can see all the trouble from the tee—and there is a lot of it to see. Water is very much in play on eight holes, combined with out-of-bounds, woods, fairway bunkering and several multitiered greens. A very challenging test, Water's Edge is owned by the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, leased by the Village of Worth and managed by Kemper Sports Management. This will be the Midwest Association's inaugural trip to Water's Edge.

Our host superintendent, Jason Lemanski, is in his third season at the club. Jason grew up in central Wisconsin and began his college career in the University of Wisconsin system but received his turf education at UMASS. He launched his career at Greenwood Hills Country Club in Wausau, WI. After a short stint on the grounds crew, Jason soon made an impression on superintendent Scott Sann and was promoted to assistant superintendent. From there, Jason went on to his first position for Kemper, at Pine Hills Golf Course. After just a year, he was moved to Water's Edge.

Jason cites Scott Sann as his professional mentor and has no doubt consulted him in overcoming the challenges found at Water's Edge. According to our host, his biggest challenge is play averaging 30-40,000 rounds a year. Also, he utilizes the Cal-Sag for irrigation water, resulting in effluent water at a pH of 8.2. Another challenge is that the course was built using biosolids. The greens and tees are California 100% sand and the rest of the facility is biosolids; in combination with his effluent water for irrigation, sodium is a constant concern. Jason's daily goal is to provide as pristine of a

*(continued on page 12)*



Water's Edge borders the Cal-Sag Channel and is owned by the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago.



playground as possible, a course that he would want to play. When asked why he got into the business, the answer was simple: "I loved and still do love the game of golf."

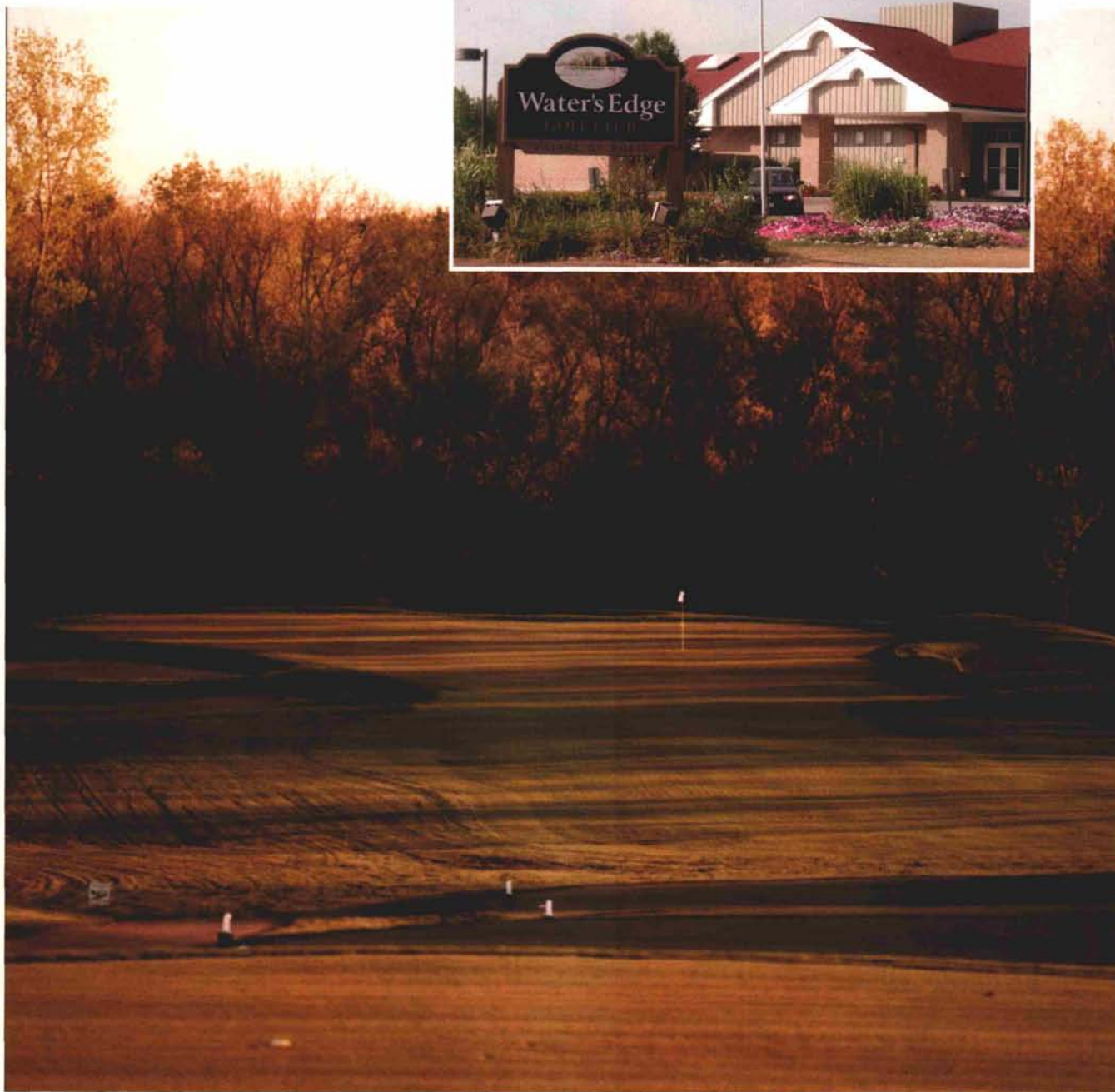
Jason is a fine golfer and at press time carries an index of 6.4. Among his favorite holes at Water's Edge is the 418-yard 13th; he particularly likes the three-tiered green complex and the ability for some great pin locations. Our host's best round at Water's Edge is 75 from the tips, which is a mere five shots worse than

his career low of 2-under 70 at Greenwood Hills Country Club. Away from golf, Jason enjoys racquet sports, softball, fishing, hunting and especially traveling. Last winter, Jason made a solo cross-country road trip through the Colorado Rockies down to Las Vegas and back through the southern states.

Jason would like to give special thanks to his crew, especially his assistant/brother Jeff Lemanski, his mechanic Jason Baumgartner, Scott Sann, Steve Dell and Bruce Schweiger. Don't miss the August meeting at one of Chicagoland's finest public facilities.



Inset: Photo by Brian Baker



Hole no. 12 at Water's Edge. Inset: The very welcoming clubhouse.





*No. 5 at Water's Edge is one of eight holes where water comes into play.*



*Hole no. 2 green at Water's Edge.*



# Bunker Overhaul the of Award-Winning R

*For the past several years, North Shore Country Club has been busy implementing a multiphased golf course improvement plan. A team lead by Jacobson Golf Course Design developed a comprehensive Golf Course Strategic Preservation and Improvement Plan, while Hollembeak Golf Course Construction and Carlson Landscape Design were the primary contractors.*



Prior to renovation, the course was reviewed for function, playability and aesthetics. Bunkers, in particular, were evaluated for strategic placement and playability. Ultimately, goals for the project included:

- Bring back and maintain the design character envisioned by the original architects H.S. Colt, C.H. Alison and Mackenzie, 1924.
- Rebuild all tees, utilizing USGA root zone with internal drainage. Add a forward/multiple-tee system, totaling five tee placements per golf hole.
- Rebuild bunkers to original character with modern updates such as internal drainage, erosion-control fabric and new functional sand.
- Improve golfer circulation with enhanced cart paths where needed. Replace all asphalt with degenerated granite gravel, or rustic paving brick in the case of high-traffic areas.
- Enhance ponds with ornamental water-garden features, shoreline erosion control and landscaped buffer areas.
- Install new, 1,450-head irrigation system.
- Perform extensive drainage repair and installation.
- Build new, one-acre driving range tee on USGA root zone with internal drainage, all-weather tee mats inlaid into rustic paving brick and enhanced target greens.
- Perform vegetation analysis, including tree removal and transplanting, extension of wildflower/prairie areas. Landscape diversification and wildlife enhancement were part of the scope.

Phasing the work allowed for improvements to be made while the course stayed open for play. Based on feedback from members and guests, the project has been an overwhelming success. North Shore Country Club not only received a national award from Golf Inc., but also earned recertification with Audubon International for the improvements.

Next on the list: improve fairway contouring and putting greens!

*The renovation included evaluating all tees for distance and orientation. New tees were built with internal drainage and USGA root zone, laser-graded and sodded with Penncross. Fill was hauled in to elevate certain tees to better capture visuals of the landing area. Here, tee no. 7 during construction, sodding and upon completion. The hole is a par 5 playing 593, 533, 491, 450 and 444 yards. The new design accommodates golfers with a wide range of skills.*



# e Cornerstone renovation Project



*(Left) After old bunker sand was removed, as much as three feet-plus deep, the original bunker configuration became apparent. These contours were used as a guide to form the new bunkers as we built the edges by hand.  
(Right) Bunker construction in progress.*



*Green no. 6 before and after bunker improvement.*



*No. 13 before, and now with new bunkers.*

*(continued on page 17)*



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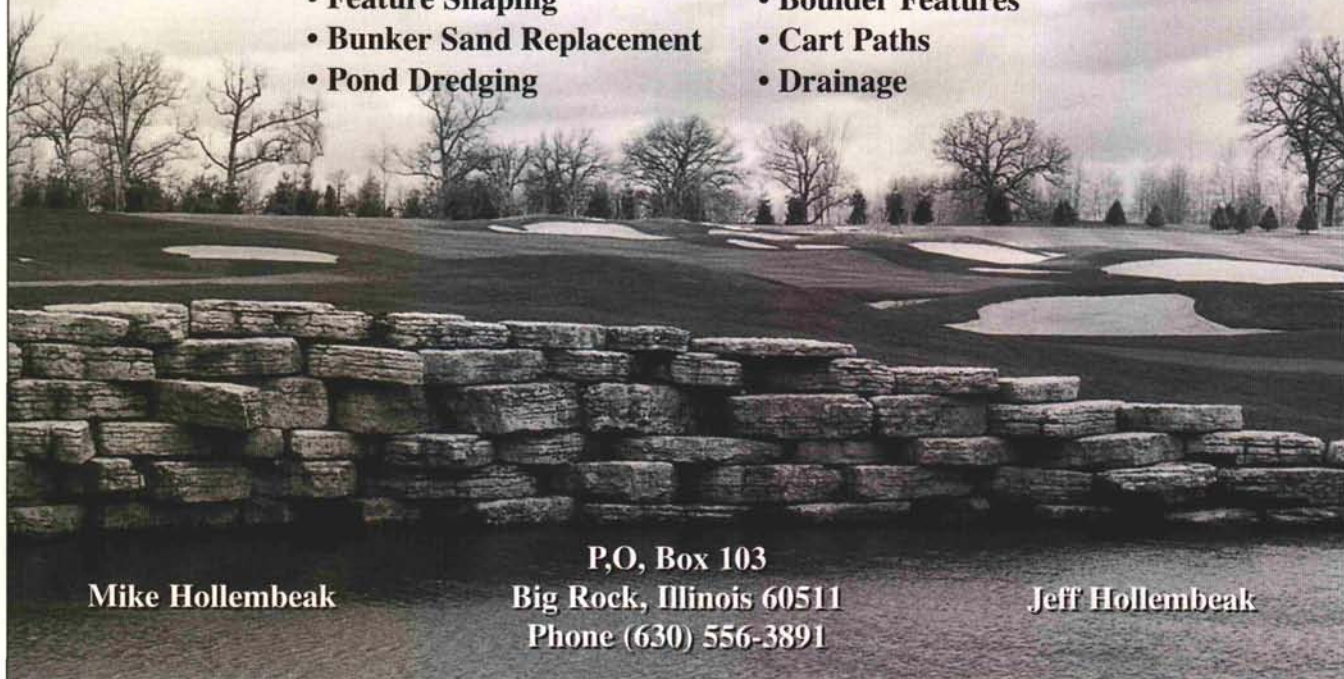
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Pond banks course-wide were prone to erosion. Here, at the pond on no. 15, installation of compost with permanent erosion-control fabric prior to seeding with Redtop grass. Next, installation of permanent erosion-control fabric, outcrops and landscape buffer. Finally, aquatic water gardens and buffer strips were planted in select areas. Bays in the ponds were carefully fenced to protect aquatic plants from being eaten by White Amur carp. The aquatic plants offer landscape interest with their floral beauty as well as act as a nutrient sink utilizing nutrients in the water. This will help create habitat for frogs, turtles and minnows, as well as help control algae.



During all phases of construction, the course remained open for play.



Construction debris (old bunker sand, sod and soil) was hauled to out-of-play areas where long, gentle, rolling mounds were graded. Wildflowers, prairie grasses and forbs were then seeded in these areas, creating landscape diversity and floral beauty as well as offering food and cover for wildlife.



New one-acre range tee built with internal drainage every 20 feet and USGA root zone. All-weather tee mats were inlaid into rustic paving brick; renovated range also included new, enhanced target greens.

(continued on page 19)





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Renovation saw removal of all asphalt cart paths and replacement with stone paths in most cases. Where traffic is too heavy for granite gravel paths, rustic paving brick was installed, as on no. 10.



Holes 3, 5 and 18, and no. 3 pond, post-renovation.





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