

# Mike Imgrund Loses Battle with Cancer

By Danny Quast, DHD Tree Products, Inc.

*Michael Imgrund, age 38, of Oak Creek, WI and formerly of LaCrosse, WI, passed away on Tuesday, October 17, 2006 at Froedtert Memorial Hospital in Milwaukee after a long battle with Hodgkin's lymphoma.*

The above notice does not say enough about our fellow superintendent. Mike was a quiet giant, a born leader who loved the profession of golf course superintendent.

I had the privilege to visit Mike in the hospital a week prior to his passing. (I had stopped a month before at Oakwood and asked on behalf of myself, my wife, Beverly, and The Wee One Foundation, if he needed anything. He said, at that time, he was fine. I told him not to hesitate to call if the Wee One Foundation could help in his recovery.) He did call when he thought he needed a stair lift for when he returned home. I visited to present the check for the stair lift and wish him well. His devoted wife, Angie, was there. I could feel the love and commitment they had for each other. It filled the room. Mike talked about going home to recover. He talked about returning to work and how he looked forward to a life. Angie had the stair lift installed. After our 45 minute visit, I told him that I would visit him at his home during his recovery. That was not to be.

While Mike was attending high school, he began his career at the Walsh Golf Course in LaCrosse, Wisconsin, where he worked for eight years before taking a job at Brynwood Country Club in Milwaukee. In 1999, Mike received an associate's degree in Turfgrass Management from Michigan State University. Starting in the summer



of 1998, he went to work at Medinah Country Club in Medinah, IL. I had the honor to work with Mike at Medinah. He was the trusted superintendent on Course III and helped to restore the course back to perfection during the spring and summer after the 1999 PGA Championship and also helped lay plans for a new era for Course #3.

From Brian Zimmerman: "Mike was a true fighter in every sense of the word. He battled cancer for over 10 years. He came to the Milwaukee park system in spring of 2004 and worked as the superintendent at Oakwood Golf Course. During the winter months, Mike took care of the winter sports activities in Whitnall Park. In the

last few years, Mike underwent two bone marrow transplants: the first, he was able to donate his own bone marrow; the second came from his older brother, David. The whole time we worked together, I never heard him complain. He worked as hard at his job as he did fighting the cancer. He had only been out of the hospital a few weeks and had to go by the course to see how it was doing. I heard a story that after he was done talking to the guys and they were walking away, he yelled to the golf pro to tell Brian Danko, the assistant, something that Mike thought needed to get done. Every day, he came to work ready to do his job to the best of his ability. Mike's parents, Doug and Pat, and his wife, Angie, were at his side through his treatments. Mike and Angie were due to celebrate their 3rd wedding anniversary on October 18."

At the visitation, there were over 400 people there to say their final goodbye. On Saturday, the funeral had over 200 present to help put Mike to rest.

The golf industry lost a true friend on October 17, 2006. Rest in peace, Mike Imgrund. ♻

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