

MEMBER PROFILE

SOMERSET'S JERRY MURPHY

A Classic Superintendent

By RICK TRAVER

When the editorial committee decided to start working on Member profiles for the Hole Notes one thing that we wanted to ensure was that the profile was only one page long. This was to ensure that people would read it and that highlighted superintendents wouldn't have cause to blush. To write a one page description of the following individual however, is almost a disservice, but here is my modest attempt.

Jerry Murphy, CGCS has been a golf course superintendent for over 47 years, with 40 of those years in service to the Somerset Country Club. He is a past president of the MGCSA and served on the GCSAA Board of Directors where he represented the golf industry in the development of the ANSI B71 performance standards for maintenance equipment. In 1971, he was also one of the first seven people in the United States and Canada to become a Certified Golf Course Superintendent, and he is currently the only active Certified Golf Course Superintendent who has been certified for 30 years.



MARYLIN AND JERRY MURPHY

He attended Penn State a few years later and graduated in 1961. Early in 1963 he was asked if he would be interested in a club in St. Paul, MN, and at that time he had just completed two years of a five year agreement at Aberdeen C.C., in SD., but thought it would be worth a look. Jerry said, "I was coming to the cities to play a newly opened course called Hazeltine so it wouldn't have to be a special trip, (my handicap was 3 at the time)." Shortly thereafter, he moved his family to a home located on the club grounds and has been there since.

Jerry has been married to the same wonderful lady for 44 years (Marilyn). He has two children Marlin, the superintendent of Stillwater C.C. and Tammy of Knap, Wisconsin. From those two children, brings six grandchildren - 2 boys and 4 girls, whom he loves to take snowmobiling.

When questioned about the future of our industry Jerry feels that "the stress level of people in this industry is going up." He also feels that "we may have become our own worst enemy by providing better and better turf conditions to the point where there is little else that can be done to improve conditions." He feels that, "Unrealistic day-in, day-out conditions are now expected. With more disease becoming resistant, more chemicals being pulled from the market and more legislative controls in place, perfect conditioning will become harder to accomplish."

Jerry's hobbies include hunting, fishing and playing golf. He also loves to hike in the more wild areas, like the Grand Canyon and Wild Canyon areas. He also has served for 33 years as a part-time police officer in the city of Mendota Heights, as well as being a first responder health care provider and having given many CPR and basic first aid classes.

Jerry Murphy, CGCS is the epitome of what a classic Golf Course Superintendent should be. He has gone about his life, serving his family, community and golf course, and done it for many years. We should all feel lucky we have had a man like Jerry Murphy, CGCS as a member of our local association.

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Jerry got his start in the late 1950's at the ripe age of 13 as a caddy. He rapidly moved up the corporate ladder to caddy master, maintenance crew and after two years was the "greens keeper". "I didn't know what I was doing but I worked hard and conditioning of the course back then was simple. Cut the greens at 3/16th of an inch, try to keep grass on the tees and mow the fairways a 1 fi inch." he said.

MEMBER PROFILE

STILLWATER'S MARLIN MURPHY

Like Father, Like Son

By RICK TRAVER

A long-standing tradition in many cultures leads the son to follow in his father's footsteps. While this was common place in generations past, it is not so common place today. This makes the father and son combination of Marlin and Jerry Murphy that much more unique. You read about Jerry (the father) on the previous page, now read on about Marlin (the son) as follows.

Marlin Murphy is the superintendent of the Stillwater C.C., and has been since 1995. He got his start in this industry at the age of 11 years, working at Somerset C.C. Marlin worked for Somerset C.C. for 7 years, then moved to the Mendota Heights par 3 course which he managed for 2 years. He then attended the Penn State turf program and did his internship the summer of 1988 at the The Minikahda Club. After graduating school he went to work as the Assistant Superintendent to Kevin Clunis at Stillwater C.C. In 1991 he moved to Brookview G.C. as the assistant superintendent until his appointment as superintendent at Stillwater Country Club.

Stillwater C.C. was founded in 1924 as a 9-hole golf course, and was originally designed by Tom Varden on 80 acres of farmland. In June of 1954 an additional 71.75 acres were purchased to complete the 18 holes. Paul Cotes designed the new 9-holes, which was purchased for \$20,000.

Marlin loves the outdoors, with his favorite hobby being Pheasant and Duck hunting. Deer hunting is close behind. He enjoys golf and uses it like a tool, as many of us do, to keep and eye on the course. He does say it would be the first hobby to drop, only because it is, "a frustrating game!" He also finds fishing to be very refreshing.

Marlin has three kids, Ashley 13, Andrew 9 and Max who is four. Marlin says "the best thing in life is



MARLIN MURPHY

watching your kids grow up into young adults. "They help to remind us what it was like looking at the world through innocent eyes", he said.

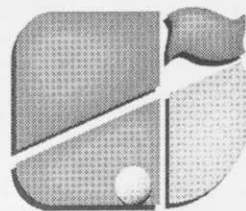
When questioned about the funniest or oddest thing ever asked, Marlin had several responses. The first was the suggestion to add antifreeze to the irrigation lines instead of blowing the water out for the winter. The second was to use the greens roller to remove the hills on the greens, but in Marlin's mind the best question was, "how can we kill all the worms in the fairways?"

Marlin's number one goal is to be the best he can at his present position. He really enjoys where he works and says, "it would have to be the perfect position to take me away from SCC". Another of

his goals is to be the best parent he can, also a chosen profession.

When asked about the future of our industry, Marlin felt that government gets too involved, and has a tendency to make uniformed decisions. While he feels the future looks tough he also feels that it is not impossible.

I have known Marlin for several years having graduated from Penn State with him. He has always been fun to be around and although I have never played Stillwater C.C., (maybe I'll get and invite), I am sure he is doing an excellent job of carrying on and up the Murphy reputation.



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122 North 2nd Street • River Falls, WI 54022 • 715-425-9511 • e-mail: info@gillmiller.com

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