

Coffee Mill Golf and Country Club Set to Host Spring Mixer May 12

By JEFF NORMANDT

Coffee Mill Golf and Country Club, located in Wabasha, was originally designed by golf course architect Glen Baldwin as a nine hole course in 1966. A second nine was added in 2004 and now stands as a Par 71.

Located on Top of the Mississippi River Bluffs

The course is located on top of the Mississippi River bluffs offering great views and many interesting changes in elevation. The front nine features smaller, flatter push up style greens while the back nine has larger USGA spec greens.

Major Challenges

Similar to many of today's golf courses, increasing turf demands on shrinking budgets and aging equipment are making golf course management a challenge.

Brief History of Course

In 1966 the clubhouse was a mushroom-shaped structure and is located near No. 5 tee. The structure is used today as a private home, rebuilt after the new clubhouse was completed. The back nine and new clubhouse were completed in 2004 on property east of the existing nine.

The club is stockholder-owned and run by a Board of Directors with various committees. Rob Sill is the General Manager of the Club.

History

I have been superintendent at Coffee Mill Golf and Country Club since June, 2005. Before that, I was superintendent and co-



No. 1 offers a great view from the top of the Mississippi River Bluffs.

owner of Valley High Golf Club in Houston, Minn.

I started my working career with a BS degree in Actuarial Science from Ball State University and worked for 17 years in various analysis, financial and management positions in the insurance industry in Chicago. During this time, I decided I would like to own and operate a golf course. I attended night

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No. 6 at Coffee Mill Golf & Country Club

school at Harper College and received an AAS degree in Parks Management and began working full time at golf courses around the Chicago suburbs. I started as a foreman at Bartlett Hills Golf Club in Bartlett, Ill. and moved on to Assistant Superintendent at Rolling Green Country Club in Arlington Heights, IL.

In 1999, I co-purchased Valley High Golf Club in Houston. With my wife and a partner, we ran Valley High until 2004 when it was sold.

I was married to Mary in 1984, have two children, Tim and Jessica, both in college. Tim is studying to be a high school chemistry teacher and Jessica plans to be a pharmacist.

When not working, I enjoy golf, baseball, biking and hiking. I am also an accomplished woodworker. Currently, my wood-working plans are on hold. We've recently sold our home near La Crosse and are renting a small condo in Wabasha. All of my woodworking tools are in storage until a more permanent home is found.