

The Jewel in Lake City Set to Host MGCSA Championship on August 16

"The Juice is Worth the Squeeze!"

The Jewel Golf Club was built between 2003-2004 and opened for play in July 2005. The course was designed by Hale Irwin and Stan Gentry.

Doug Mahal, CGCS, a former president of the MGCSA (1987), has been Superintendent at The Jewel since July 2003. Chad Setter is Assistant Superintendent.

The par 71 course stretches out to 7,050 yards from the back and play just 4,900 from the forward tees.

The Jewel offers an interesting blend of links-style and woodland holes with their associated natural areas. The spectacular bluff land views and layout make the trip and cost to Lake City very worthwhile.

The 800-acre Jewel Tree Nursery was purchased in the late 1990s to build a planned urban development in Lake City. The golf course was to be an amenity to that housing development. With the crash of the housing market post 9/11, the owners made the decision, late in 2006, to auction all property not already owned by others, which included the 200-acre golf course. Currently, the course is privately owned with about 100 members but open for public play.

The Jewel has received a variety of awards including being honored as a "Top Ten Best New Course in America" by *Golf Magazine* in 2005; 2005 Seed Research of Oregon "Golf Course of the Year" 2006 *Golf Digest* "Top Ten Best New Public Course (Under \$75 category).

Challenges

Early normal grow-in challenges have given way to a course that's becoming more routine to manage. During construction, generally all topsoil was removed from the course and not returned. Growing turf on the native underlying silty soil has been challenging.



Weed management also continues to be a bit of a problem due to the seed source from the surrounding large acreage of unbuilt and unmaintained housing lots.

Doug Mahal, CGCS

Doug Mahal, CGCS, is in the middle of his 43rd season on golf courses. Forty-three years ago he began his career on a small, 9-hole course in Babbitt, Minn. Mahal has had prior working stints of one season at Majestic Oaks in Ham Lake, 17 seasons at Interlachen Country Club in Edina, 12 at The Minikahda Club in Minneapolis, and one at Big Fish in Hayward, Wis. Mahal gained a BS degree from the University of Minnesota in 1977. He has been married Norma for 33 years with three grown sons and three grandchildren. Doug enjoys hunting, fishing, golf and more recently, a little bicycling.

Chad Setter

Assistant Superintendent Chad Setter, grew up in north of the metro in St. Francis and got his career start at Viking Meadows in Cedar, Minn. at the age of 16. He's also provided service to Giants Ridge and Hillcrest Country Club in St. Paul prior to arriving at The Jewel in 2008. Chad holds a BS degree in Turf Facilities Management from University of Minnesota-Crookston. Chad is single and enjoys biking, exercise and golf.

In Summary

The Jewel will provide a great test of golf in a beautiful setting. "The juice is worth the squeeze!"

