



The dedication this spring of the  
**Three-Hole Sunshine Course**  
at Midwest Golf House “signals a new era” for  
the CDGA Foundation and its successful  
Sunshine Through Golf program.

*The Three-Hole Sunshine Course at Midwest Golf House in Lemont gets a trial run before officially opening on June 6, 2004.*



PHOTO BY PETER WISNER



# Celebrating Sunshine

\* BY NEAL KOTLAREK \*

For better or worse, we live in a society with an overwhelming affection for celebrations. At various times of the year, we celebrate birthdays, anniversaries, new years, presidents, valentines and groundhogs, just to name a few.

While not begrudging anyone a good party, the fact is that the sheer volume of all these celebrations has a tendency to water down those commemorations that really, really matter to us. Things like America's independence, the sacrifices of our nation's veterans and our gratitude for a bountiful harvest.

In late spring of this year, the CDGA Foundation's Sunshine Through Golf program will hold one of those celebrations that really, really matters. Five years in the planning, the product of countless hours of arduous work and the generosity of thousands of benefactors, the Three-Hole Sunshine Course will be unveiled to the public at a formal dedication ceremony on June 6. Taking the first official shots off the first tee will be a Sunshine Through Golf program participant; Bob Berry, president of the CDGA and its Foundation; a representative from I\*Mag\*Jen Charities, the organization that funded the Sunshine

Course's clubhouse; and Brent Wadsworth, who undertook construction of the three-hole layout.

Laid out on the grounds of the Midwest Golf House in Lemont, the par-3 course was designed specifically to serve thousands of beginners, juniors, individuals with disabilities, minorities and the economically disadvantaged. The course, called "a modern masterpiece" by Carl Hopphan, director of development for the Illinois Turfgrass Foundation, maintains a singular objective: to provide an unforgettable experience for everyone who plays it.

Along with this mission, the Three-Hole Sunshine Course will serve as an arboretum and the largest living turf research laboratory in the nation. Green industry

associations and golf course developers will be able to assess a multitude of turfgrasses and flora that flourish on demonstration plots located throughout the eight-acre golf course.

Multiple tee boxes allow players to play holes as short as 45 to 60 yards or, from the back tees, more imposing lengths of 130 to 190 yards. The first hole slopes slightly downhill, playing between 55 and 140 yards. The second hole incorporates wetlands and a sand bunker. The finishing hole plays between 60 and 190 yards and features sand bunkers on the right side and behind the green, as well as a waste area.

Scheduled for unveiling along with the golf course is the elegant new I\*Mag\*Jen Clubhouse. This facility is for the exclusive use of Sunshine Course players and their guests.

With the formal dedication ceremony, the Sunshine Through Golf program—the largest grass-roots golf program for individuals with disabilities in the entire country—will officially realize a longstanding vision. Other associations that use golf as an educational, rehabilitative, therapeutic

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*A "member" of the Three-Hole Sunshine Course, Daniel Rodgers, lines up his putt.*

PHOTO BY HOLLY ALCALA

