

Golf Industry Vet Jim Szilagyi Heads New Ownership Team at The LYNX Golf Club

(Otsego, Michigan)---While growing up outside Detroit, Jim Szilagyi got a first-hand look at what it took to successfully run a public golf facility from his father, Bob, a longtime PGA of America member. The elder Szilagyi managed two prominent golf courses—Salem Hills in Northville and Godwin Glen in South Lyon—until his retirement. Now, his son hopes to utilize the skills he learned from his father as the new owner of The LYNX Golf Club in the southeast Allegan County town of Otsego.

“My father wasn’t just a golf professional who sat in a shop or taught lessons,” Jim says. “He was immersed in every element of golf club operation, from advice on the swing to zoysia grass. Even then--forty years ago--he was attuned to all the things that people cared about--and what would it would take to bring them back.”

After searching for years to buy a golf club of his own, Szilagyi finally homed in on The LYNX in 2012. Before his first purchase, the native Detroitier searched the state of Michigan before settling on a club that’s been in operation for fifteen years. “When you move away from the big metropolitan areas like Detroit and Grand Rapids, you have a chance to view a property without the peripherals,” says Szilagyi. “I found this place to be a beautifully situated property on the Kalamazoo River in a growth area of Michigan. And I’m confident we can quickly add value for our patrons without doing away with any of the things people who’ve been here already like.”

Though a first-time owner, Szilagyi’s connections to golf go back to the 70s when he pulled off an unusual two-sport career at Central Michigan University, where he played football (defensive back on CMU’s 1974 Division II national championship team) and golf. During his career in broadcast sales in Detroit, he became a top performer in the Michigan Publinx Golf Association, and later the group’s president. And while his business pursuits and raising three children with his wife, Pam, limited his time playing, he maintained his game to the point where he was still a match-play qualifier at the Michigan Amateur after the age of 40, and has played in the Fuller Cup matches (Michigan PGA professionals versus amateurs) as well.

But after years of working for a variety of golf industry companies, he now begins a new chapter in his life as a proprietor of a golf operation he expects to run until his retirement. “My wife and I have always loved west Michigan and now we’ve got the chance to enjoy it even more,” he says. At The LYNX, Jim says he’ll focus on making the club the premier golf experience in its area, while hoping to attract visitors from areas like Grand Rapids and Kalamazoo, as well as other avid golfers traveling to and from northern Michigan.

“During the rest of the 2013 season I will reach out to the people who know

us to assure them of our intentions,” Szilagyi promises. “At the same time, we’re going to move quickly to implement new ideas and upgrade all aspects of our operation. We have plans to improve our food and banquet offerings so that the club and its restaurant will be viable and inviting twelve months a year.”

As a teen, Szilagyi spent most of his summers playing golf under his late father’s watchful eye. It wasn’t until he began working in the golf industry that he realized how much he had been watching his father. “My dad was the go-to instructor for a lot of top amateur players and aspiring golf professionals,” Szilagyi remembers. “But he was proudest about the small victories he achieved with average golfers and people who just liked the ambience all great golf clubs have.”

Says Jim Szilagyi, “That’s what we’re hoping for at The LYNX—golfers of every stripe who all have different reasons for wanting this to be their club of choice.”

The LYNX Golf Club is a daily-fee, public golf facility with restaurant and dining facilities at 900 Lincoln Road, Otsego, Michigan. For more information on tee times, groups and dining, call toll-free (888) 586-5969 or (269) 694-5969. Online: www.LYNXgolfcourse.com