

Remembering Michael Dann

Longtime CGA Director of Course Rating and Handicapping Michael Dann died unexpectedly in July. Here, **colleagues remember Dann for his wit, intellect, and passion for golf — and food.**

Michael knew more about North Carolina's golf courses than anyone. I once told him I had a goal of playing each one. We quizzed each other on our knowledge of out-of-the-way courses. I will certainly miss those contests.

—Tom Johnson, CGA

Michael taught me a lot about thinking in a different way and looking at things from all angles. He was inquisitive and brilliant. His IQ was off the chart. One day I told him, after another one of his out-of-the-box ideas, "Michael, you not only think outside of the box, you also think outside of the warehouse." We will miss you, Miguel.

—Jack Nance, CGA

Most folks are language or math oriented. Michael mastered both and enjoyed delving into both worlds. Not many J-school majors minor in math, but he did at Illinois — thus his interest in the magazine business, but also the minutiae of course ratings and handicaps ... he knew so much about so many different things. And a quirky sense of humor to boot.

—Lee Pace, golf writer

Michael was a very humble individual and never tooted his own horn, though he tooted mine on several occasions. He would often introduce me to someone for the first time with the comment, "This is a former Irish National Champion." I rarely ever told anyone this about myself, so it seemed to me that Michael, in his own way, was proud enough for both of us. We will surely miss his golf knowledge and his quirky sense of humor.

—Chris Nielsen, CGA

From time to time, people — including Michael — would bring various kinds of food into the office. Michael loved food. He never ate large quantities at one time, but would nibble away at the treats all day (or days) until it was gone. I don't think anything ever came into the office that he didn't like.

—Judy Wimmer, CGA

Michael was a smart and articulate person. I never saw him angry, flustered, or unsure of himself. He was always smiling or joking, and he had that corny sense of humor ... I will miss him.

—Rita Longest, CGA

Michael would always listen to my questions or stories; he would always have a comeback or quip to everything I ever said to him. He always had a reply to my press releases with either a corny joke, or fix my mistakes. He made me feel welcomed at the CGA from the first minute I started.

—Rusty Harder, CGA

He never walked by me without a smirk on his face. I wish I could have had more time with him, as I learned something new every time I spoke with him — and not just about golf.

—Chris Zeh, CGA

Michael had a penchant for having car problems in company cars. After numerous phone calls to report problems, I started answering his calls with not hello but "what have you broken now?" He got such a charge out of needling me about it that he'd call and say, "so I was driving down the road and" (long pause while he waited

for me to ask what was broken now) and then he'd finish with, "Could you give me the phone number for (name of the pro at whatever club he was visiting that day)." I will surely miss those exchanges as well as being able to share our latest dark chocolate discovery.

—Johnnie Gebhardt, CGA

Michael was a soup freak. He would eat soup for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. And it didn't matter what type of soup, Michael would eat it ... I will miss my friend, but will always think of him when I have a bowl of soup.

—Jason Cox, CGA

Worked across the hall from Michael for 13 years. I will miss the daily sounds of Beach Boys music blasting and pounding the computer keyboard because he still thought he was working on a typewriter.

—Tiffany Priest, CGA

Masterful. Intelligent. Caring. Honest. Affable. Exceptional. Loving. Dedicated. Accessible. Nutty. Neighborly.

—Andy Priest, CGA

Michael had a great wit. He was quick, too! His mind was wonderful to behold and most fascinating to interact with.

—Doug Hardisty, CGA

Michael always cared about what was going on in others' lives. After our conversations, I would say to him, "Michael, have a good day." He would reply in an emphatic tone, "No, YOU have a good day."

—Scott Gerbereux, CGA

I worked with Michael on turf articles for the CGA magazine over the last 16 years. I always sent him more information than space allowed, and he found a way to edit it down and make me look good. His editorial skills and dedication will be difficult to replace. A special time each year was my chance to work with him at the CGA Father-Son Championship at Seven Lakes CC — a place where he spent the last 22 years of his life.

—Leon Lucas, CGA

