



Hall of Fame

Chris Venaglia

Inducted: October 20, 2017

Chris Venaglia joined the St. Paul Ski Club for the same reason most members do. Ski jumping looked like fun. Chris enjoyed the people in the club and trained and competed in the club's Friday night tournaments. He also represented the club in jumping meets throughout the Central Division. As a part of his high school ski team he gained All Conference status with the MN State High School League and was named to the All State Team at the young age of 14, the youngest ever to be so honored.

Chris Venaglia's lasting contributions to the club came when his jumping days were over. He found something special at Harrington Hill and became one of the club's most frequent and reliable volunteers. Name a project at the club over the past 25 years and odds are high that Chris participated. He worked on improvements to the chalet and helped build pole barns and new ski jumps. Almost singlehandedly, Chris eradicated the invasive Buckthorn problem from the entire ski club property. He became the Buckthorn King.

Over the years Chris earned many nicknames. Chris reached out to the Metropolitan Mosquito Control District and convinced them to include the club's property in their mosquito abatement program. He continues to work with them today, greatly improving conditions at the hill during the summer program. He is the Mosquito King.

Perhaps the highest honor we can give Chris is the title of Snow King. Venaglia served as the club's Hill Captain for several years and was a tireless leader of many work parties over the years. He helped revolutionize the system to put artificial snow on the jumps by creating a trail system through the woods that allowed for the easy movement of machinery around the property. Chris spent countless overnights at the hill making snow. There was actually one season when Chris made all of the snow for all of the hills, all by himself. He has provided training for others who would follow in his footsteps.

Chris was instrumental in bringing Dragonfly TV to the hill to film a PBS special that garnered a lot of interest in the club by new families. He has worked at countless training camps, tending the hills and coaching the kids. Lawn Mower Man, Chain Saw Man, Brush Mower Man. The list could continue on and on.

After all of these accomplishments, Chris Venaglia continues his decades long participation in this sport. No individual could be more deserving of this honor and the St. Paul Ski Club is proud to enshrine Chris as a member of the St. Paul Ski Club Hall of Fame.