



“Motion W” with Eric Counselman

By John Meyer

There was something

I really liked about the man but couldn't put my finger on it right away. I first met Eric Counselman in his office years ago and it is painted bright RED. Hmm, I said to myself, could it be? No, probably not, not here in Minnesota. We talked briefly in his office and then continued out to the course to look at some of the turf. Eric took his keys and knife out of his pocket and started cut out a sample of turf to look at more closely and I said, “Stop.” I saw this bright RED “Motion W” on his key ring and I immediately dug in my pocket and pulled out my key chain with the same “Motion W” and then stated, “I

guess we have something in common.”

Born on the east coast, Eric Counselman is the furthest from an east coaster. The second oldest in a family of four, he is a very down to earth person that grew up in east central Wisconsin. Plymouth to be exact, not too far from Pete Dye's gems in Kohler. As a matter of fact Eric's first experience on a golf course came at Blackwolf Run when he was 16. Eric worked on Pete's “burial mounds” for three summers during high school.

After graduating from Plymouth High School, Eric went to the University of Wisconsin where he studied under

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Doctors Wayne Kussow and John Stier, and their Turf Science program.

During the summers at UW, Eric interned one year at the Broadmoor in Colorado Springs, CO and another year at the TPC Potomac at Avenel Farm in Potomac, MD.

After graduating from THE University of Wisconsin, Eric went to work back home as an assistant to Ron Bierwirth at the Kohler Courses. In July of 2003 Eric took the assistant position under Casey Conlin during the final stages of the

grow-in at Somerby Golf Club in Byron, MN. Casey left Somerby in 2006 and Eric has been Superintendent ever since. Currently, the avid bow-hunter is

assisted at Somerby by Jake Kocak and Robbie Holmes.



Eric met his bride, Shannon at UW in 1997. Shannon and Eric got married in March of 2009 and earlier this year they had their first child. A beautiful baby girl, Esme Marie,

born on Eric's birthday.

Eric and Shannon love to

vacation. One year they take a “cultural vacation” and the next year they take a “tropical vacation”. A great idea to mix it up. This fall Eric and Shannon are traveling to Tuscany and Florence, Italy. In season, Eric and Shannon get away to Shannon’s parent’s cabin up in Zimmerman.

Eric enjoys hunting, fishing, nordic skiing, mushroom hunting and a whole host of outdoor activities. Eric has skied in five (5) of the last six (6) American Birkebiners, the famous cross country ski race from Cable to Hayward, Wisconsin...only a mere 51 kilometers (30 miles). Eric also enjoys making his own wine and volunteering on the Environmental Commission of

the Olmsted County Board. Eric has been on the Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents’ Association Board of Directors for the past four years.

And finally, a “**Motion W**”. It is true! The W not only stands for Wisconsin, but it stands for Winner. Eric is a Winner and his golf course and community activity reflect that. If you are ever planning on traveling through Bryon give Eric a call ahead of time and stop on by. If you are a wine drinker, let Eric know when you call. Bring a bottle and exchange it for one of Eric’s fine home brews...I know this works as I have done it a couple of times. From one Badger to another Badger, THANK YOU Eric for your time.



Somerby Golf Club

- **Opened in 2004**
- **Privately owned by Ames Construction**
- **Managed by O.B. Sports out of Scottsdale, AZ**
- **Architects**
 - **Tom Lehman**
 - **John Fought**
- **Housing development with home sites still available**
- **Superintendents**
 - **Casey Conlin – 2003 – 2006**
 - **Eric Counselman – 2006 – present**
- **Grasses**
 - **Greens – A-4**
 - **Tees – L-93**
 - **Fairways – L-93**
 - **Roughs – Kentucky Bluegrass and Scottish Links Fescue**
- **Irrigation**
 - **Toro System**
 - **2100 Heads**
 - **Wall to Wall Coverage**

