



Where do turfies come from?

By Jon Thronson

It's hardly a rhetorical question. However, just like you, we all have our own story of how we came into the profession. Although as every version is unique, they begin to sound alike; "I like being around grass and people."

Meet the Badger Turf and Grounds Club. Members were asked:

1. your hometown
2. briefly describe yourself
3. grass related experience
4. expected graduation date
5. your dream course or area

This should give you some idea of who we are and who your future colleagues are.

• **Sheri Barlow**, Waupaca, WI. *After graduation I want to be an assistant on a private golf course in WI, IL, or MN. Eventually I want to be organized enough to be a superintendent at a championship course as well as have a family.* Waupaca CC, Kris Pinkerton, Brett Grams, Blackhawk CC, Monroe Miller. Graduating in Dec. '97. Dream course is anywhere.

• **Jeff Beauvais**, Madison, WI. *Upon graduation I hope to procure an assistant position at a reputable golf course in the midwest. I enjoy golfing, hockey, skiing, and traveling.* Westmoor CC, Jerry Kershasky, Blackhawk CC, Monroe Miller. Graduating in Dec. '97. Dream course is anywhere near Jon Thronson.

• **Amy Bevington**, Madison, WI. *I am interested in the maintenance of trees, shrubs, flowers and the utilization of native plants in the golf course.* O.J. Noer Turfgrass Facility, Bishops Bay CC, Mike Semler. Graduating in May '97. Dream Course is in the Madison or south-central WI area.

• **Jenise Boehlke**, Germantown, WI. *I plan on working at Conway Farms in Lake Forest, IL in the summer of '97. After that I plan on working as an assistant in the midwest.* North Hills CC, Chad Ball, Randy Dupont, Bishop's Bay CC, Mike Semler. Graduating in Dec. '97. Dream area is the midwest.

• **Eric Bradley**, Randolph, WI. *I'm fairly new to the turf world, but find the area very interesting. My plans are to continue and find employment somewhere.* Blackhawk CC, Monroe Miller. Graduating in May '97. Dream course is somewhere warmer.

• **Emily Buelow**, Raleigh, NC. *I'm a graduate student working for Dr. Frank Rossi working on the winter hardiness of annual bluegrass. I'm looking forward to joining the work force after finishing my master's.* Blackhawk CC, Monroe Miller, O.J. Noer Turfgrass Facility, McKay Nursery Co. Graduating in Aug. '97. Emily has no geographical limits.

• **Tim Cherwin**, Bartlett, IL. *After graduation I plan to enroll in the San Diego Golf Academy for two years. After SDGA I plan to stay in the San Diego area and work on*

an area course. Prairie Landing GC, Tony Kalina. Graduating in May '98. Dream area is southern Cal.

• **William Hart**, Appleton, WI. *My plans are to continue building towards and achieving my goal of becoming a professional and successful person in life.* Reid Municipal GC, Doug DeVries, Blackhawk CC, Monroe Miller. Graduating in Dec. '97. Dream course is anywhere I'm happy.

• **Toby leuter**, Boulder, CO. *I plan to end up living and working somewhere near home. Last summer I worked at Estancia in Arizona and learned a lot and enjoyed my time there. I have traveled extensively and hope to see more places after graduation.* Estancia GC, Carl Rygg,



Steve Millett, Brad Smith, Jon Thonson, Tara Zabkowicz: club officers.



Brad Smith, Bill Hart, Jeff Beauvais, Tim Cherwin, Joel Peterson, Amy Sausen, Doug Schoch, Eric Bradley, Jamie Johnson, Scott Wendells, Toby leuter, Jon Thronson, Dave Rappold, Emily Buelow, Jenise Boehlke, Raechal Sager, Steve Millett, Tara Zabkowicz, Sheri Barlow.

Bruce Company, John Sauer. Graduating in Aug. '97. Dream course is in the wild west.

• **Jamie Johnson**, Tomahawk, WI. *I hope to get a job as an assistant superintendent in the western part of the United States. Maple Bluff CC, Tom Harrison. Graduating in May '98 (Hopefully!!). Dream course is in or near Utah.*

• **Steve Millett**, East Moline, IL. *I am finishing up my Ph.D. and would love to stay in Wisconsin. M.S. Clemson in turf pathology, Turfgrass Disease Diagnostic Lab. No idea of a graduation date. Dream course is in Madison, WI.*

• **Joel Peterson**, Milwaukee, WI. *I have aspirations of someday becoming a head superintendent at a great golf course. New Berlin Hills GC, Jeff Kingsley and Forrest Dean. Graduating in Dec. '97. Dream courses are TPC at Southwind and TPC at Sawgrass.*

• **David Rappold**, Fredonia, WI. *I have been fortunate enough to experience the construction and maintenance of high quality golf courses and plan to continue my affiliation with similar courses. Blackwolf Run, Michael Lee, The Bog, Pat Shaw, Whistling Straights, Michael Lee. Graduating in Dec. '97. Dream course is anywhere.*

• **Nathan Rohde**, McFarland, WI. *I am a people person, I'm on the rowing team and I love to golf. Maple Bluff CC, Tom Harrison. Graduating in four years. Dream course is in the Caribbean.*

• **Raechal E. Sager**, Milwaukee, WI. *After graduation I hope to eventually work as a head groundskeeper at a Major League Stadium. Milwaukee Brewers Baseball Club, Gary Vanden Berg and David Mellor. Graduating in Dec. '98. Dream area is Major League Baseball.*

• **Amy J. Sausen**, De Pere, WI, *I am currently employed by the UW as an outreach Specialist with the Horticulture Dept. My duties include evaluating research plots, assisting county extension agents as a turfgrass specialist, and hosting professional and homeowner educational sessions. Bruce Company, Cherokee CC, Scott*
(Continued on page 33)



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(Continued from page 31)

Byron Landscaping, Leid's Landscaping. Currently a master's candidate. Dream area is to continue in extension.

• **Doug Schoch**, Glidden, WI. *Honest dedicated worker looking to further pursue my career as a supervisor for a professional athletic field. Milwaukee Brewers Baseball Club, Gary Vanden Berg and David Mellor, Kansas City Royals Baseball Club, George Toma and Mike Matherne, Nakoma CC, Randy Smith. Graduating Dec. '96. Dream area is any professional athletic field.*

• **Bradley A. Smith**, Plymouth, MN. *My current career objective is to become an assistant where I can apply my education and experience. My long term career objective is to become a superintendent of distinction, serving my profession, and earning the respect of my peers. Westmoor CC, Jerry Kershasky, Wayzata CC, Robert Distel, Meadowlark CC, Michael Saffel. Graduating in May '97. Dream course is in the midwest.*

• **Jon D. Thronson**, Edgerton, WI. *I am a hard nosed worker who respects the heritage of our profession. Seeing and playing new courses is always a thrill. I've found my niche! Coachman's Inn GR, Chad Johnson, Blackhawk CC, Monroe Miller, Medinah CC, Danny Quast. Graduating in Dec. '96. Dream course is any historic tour stop.*

• **Scott Wendels**, Fond du Lac, WI. *After graduation I hope to obtain an assistant's job at a championship golf*

course. I love to play golf and know what the golfer wants on the course. Rolling Meadows GC, John Zahn, Whispering Springs GC, Robert Puddula. Graduating in Dec. '99. Dream course is a championship course in WI.

• **Tara Zabkowicz**, Menomonee Falls, WI. *I want to continue my education by working on golf courses*
(Continued on page 35)

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(Continued from page 33)

anywhere in the midwest or east coast. North Hills CC, Chad Ball, North Shore CC, Bob Erdahl, Blackhawk CC, Monroe Miller. Graduating in May '97. Dream course is anywhere they will take me.

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Badgers Set Sights on Vegas

This February, students at UW-Madison will be setting a precedent for what they hope will become a tradition. The Badger Turf and Grounds Club has given three students the opportunity to go to the GCSAA conference in Las Vegas.

The President's Travel Award was bestowed to Brad Smith, Tara Zabkowicz and Jon Thronson. The award was created by Mr. Josh Lepine (UW '95, Winged Foot GC) and designed for outstanding upper-class turfies. The funds were generated by donations and fundraising efforts by Mr. Lepine, Mr. Monroe Miller and Dr. Wayne Kussow. Many thanks for your efforts.

In return, the UW will increase its presence at the national to establish Wisconsin as a turf power. In addition, recipients will participate in the collegiate Turfbowl competition against other schools to retain the turf crown held by our own Steve Millett.

World Wide Turf: Attention Alumni

The BTGC has been on-line for nine months at www.wisc.edu/plhealthser/turfclub/turfclub.htm. World Wide Turf is a spin-off and intended to be an on-line version of UW turf alumni. The spirit of WWT is to establish a connection between students and professionals for internships, relocation, etc. Any and all alumni are encouraged to respond to: Badger Turf and Grounds Club, 1525 Observatory Drive, Madison, WI, 53706. Letters should include vitals such as work address, phone, email, etc.

Chris Chase and Tim Wegner were not available for biographies; they are, however, on the btgc homepage.

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