

# Badger State Turf Clippings

By Tom Wentz and the Reinders Team

Mother Nature left her mark permanently on the final days of summer 2005. Over 20 tornadoes ripped through southwestern part of the state, doing great damage to communities, homes and lives. Stoughton Country Club got a direct hit and many trees were destroyed. The upper part of their clubhouse and the pump house were blown away. **Mark Livingston**, superintendent at Stoughton CC, and his crew, with the help of others, did a great job in cleaning up and getting the golf course back open. Right now if you visited the club, you wouldn't know what they had gone through just a few months earlier, other than several homes under reconstruction.

With hurricanes Katrina and Rita causing massive devastation in the Gulf Coast, New Orleans and Texas, we can feel fortunate to live up here in Wisconsin. While we do deal with other forces of nature, nothing will match what they have dealt with down there. It seems that the hurricanes have followed the planned sites for the 2006 GIS Conference and Show (formerly the GCSAA Conference and Show). From New Orleans, to Houston and now finally to Atlanta. Hopefully Atlanta is far enough inland not to feel the impact of hurricane Zeldia!!

## Positive Communications

If you subscribe to Golfdom, the October issue highlights a great approach that **Dan Williams**, superintendent at Riverview Country Club, took to handle women's league complaint

that the crew seem to only work on the golf course when they were playing. Rather than become defensive, Dan took the proactive, positive approach and invited the members of the women's league on a tour of the maintenance facility and to a seminar dealing with the ins and outs of the crew's operation. The two hour workshop included hands-on equipment demonstrations and concluded with a reception featuring free beer, wine and hors d'oeuvres. What a difference this has made in the women's perception of Dan's job and his maintenance crew. It has paid dividends in allowing the women to appreciate the hard work that goes into maintaining the golf course. It was a great approach to a common complaint!!

## Just Married

Bobby Lorenzo, assistant superintendent at Bristol Oaks Country Club, got married to his sweetheart Stephanie on September 24th. They had planned to depart for their Caribbean Cruise out of New Orleans, and hurricane Katrina changed their departure to Galveston, Texas. Hurricane Rita then delayed their cruise by another two days. They did finally get going on their honeymoon. Bobby mentioned that a Catholic priest from India married them, and this was one of his first weddings. He told Bobby and his best man that he would come get them when it was time for the ceremony. They waited and waited, and ten minutes after the wedding was suppose to start, the

priest remembered to come get them. They walked out to the bride, bridesmaid and groomsmen already waiting at the altar. Needless to say, it was a few anxious moments for the bride!!

## New Jobs

Ken Peterson, superintendent at UW-Green Bay— Shorewood GC, retired after 30 years of dedicated service. His new replacement is Nate Rush. Nate was the assistant superintendent at Branch River CC and now is coming back to his alma mater at UW-Green Bay.

Eric Ritter is the new superintendent at Spooner Golf Club. Eric came down from Tower, Minnesota where he served as the assistant superintendent at the Wilderness Resort at Fortune Bay.

Josh LePine, superintendent at Bristlecone Pines GC in Hartland, has just hired Ben LaBarre to serve as his assistant superintendent. Ben comes back to Wisconsin after spending two seasons at Baltusrol CC in New Jersey, where he helped with the PGA Championship back in August. Ben graduated from UW-Madison in May 2005 with a degree in turfgrass management. He had worked previously at Decatur Lakes GC, Stoughton CC, and at the OJ Noer Facility.

I'm sure we haven't captured all the significant news from around the state, so please pass along to me or any of your Reinders reps any updates. We want to spread the good news!! You can email me at [twentz@reinders.com](mailto:twentz@reinders.com) or call me at 608-220-6592. 🌿