

Badger State Turf Clippings

By Tom Wentz and the Reinders Team

By the time you will be reading this, the summer season will be in full swing. When you think about the job of the golf course superintendent, what comes to mind is farming. I was raised on a dairy farm in Ohio, and we all had our chores to do, crops to put in, and harvest to look forward to. The superintendent, in much the same way, has the routine of daily mowing, grooming and managing to keep the turf in good shape through all the stresses and strains of the season. The harvest doesn't come at the end of the season, but is a daily event. The one common factor between farming and golf course management is that we deal with the uncertainty of what Mother Nature will throw at you. Too much rain or not enough, cold and hot spells, heat and humidity – they all impact the decisions the golf course superintendent needs to be make to keep the turf healthy. Being flexible as the season moves along and making the right decisions along the way can be very rewarding. I hope all of you are adjusting to the events of each day and week and will be rewarded with a job well done as the season winds down.

This time of year you would not expect many superintendent changes, and in fact I have none to report here. There was one assistant move as **Joey John** came over from Janesville Riverside GC to become the new assistant at Deer Valley GC in Barneveld. Joey is a graduate of the MATC turf program in Madison.

There were some moves within the turf industry side of the business however, with Kevin Kershasky joining LESCO as sales representative for the SE Wisconsin territory. Kevin started his turf career at 12 years old and worked through high school and college with his dad, Jerry, at Westmoor CC in Brookfield. Kevin graduated from Anoka Community College in Minnesota. He served as an assistant at Westmoor CC in 2004 and then assistant superintendent at Horseshoe Bay GC in 2005.

Reinders has hired a new soft good sales representative for Chicagoland area and parts of southern Wisconsin. **Keith Krause** started around mid-May. Keith is a graduate of the Michigan State turf program and while there worked as a research assistant. He worked as an assistant superintendent at Crystal Downs GC in Michigan and most recently as assistant superintendent at Aurora CC in Illinois.

Ah...the Weather!!

It's funny how we seem to average out in temperatures and rainfall amounts by only dealing with

extremes. I can't remember if we ever had an "average" year. Certainly 2006 is shaping itself to be another "extreme" year. While you all may not be faced with it, here are some of the significant weather events so far this year:

- Hail on Easter weekend in April. Some golf courses in Madison and Milwaukee area dealt with severe hail damage on greens. Can you image a thousand ball marks on a green!! The best way, but certainly not the fastest, was repairing each mark one by one.
- Tornado touchdown in Hartford. This happened on Fathers Day, and there fortunately was no damage at Hartford CC even though it touched down less than a mile away. Surveying the damage, it was remarkable to see how a house in the direct path of the tornado could be completely missed but a 50 foot oak tree 20 feet away in the back yard could be pulled up by the roots.
- Get out the snow plows on June 26th!! Poynette experienced so much hail that the snow plows had to clear the roads. Fortunately no golf courses in the area were damaged. The storm did dump six to seven inches of rain in a few hours in the Columbus and Middleton area.

I'm sure you could report other weird weather events where you live, but hopefully we can get through the rest of the summer in good shape.

If you have any news to pass along, please provide updates to me or any of your Reinders reps. You can email me at twentz@reinders.com or call me at 608-220-6592. 🌱



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122 North 2nd Street • River Falls, WI 54022
715-425-9511 • e-mail: info@gilldesigninc.com

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