

# Badger State Turf Clippings

By Tom Wentz and the Reinders Team

By the time you read this, spring will be in the air. March can be a finicky month, with snowstorms and mild days combined with cold blasts. I have not looked into my crystal ball to predict the weather, but I'm quite certain, based on past history, we will have a little of each. It's great to have a little snow blanket at this point, to add a little protection.

The turf shows are behind us. The GIS attendance turned out better than projected with a little over 18,000 attendees... more than they had when it was last held in Atlanta. The trade show appeared to be bustling with activity. I know the Wisconsin hospitality room was a hit at Max Lagers Bar and Grill. It certainly beat the traditional hospitality setting at a hotel ballroom. Hope all of your equipment is painted, tuned up, sharpened and ready to go when the turf gets going. Let's hope for a normal spring... gradual warming, consistent temperatures, and a lot of golf activity to bring in the early revenue.

## Jobs moves around Wisconsin

You likely received a lot of mailers these past few months on job openings around the state. Some of these have been filled, others are getting close. I have captured many, but probably not all. Here is the latest:

The Bruce Company has moved some key personnel around, as **Mike Semler** will be moving over to Manager of Golf Construction and **Matt Schmitz** will move up to Mike's old position as Manager of Golf Operations. Matt had been superintendent at Bishops Bay CC in Middleton for the past few years, and will now oversee all the Bruce Company golf operations—Bishops Bay GC;

Meadows of Six Mile Creek in Waunakee; Windwood CC in Watertown and Meadow Springs GC in Jefferson. As a result of these moves, the new superintendent at Bishops Bay is **Tim Gagnon**. Tim is a graduate of Michigan State, and served as an assistant at Milwaukee CC. Tim is moving back to Wisconsin from Nevada where he served as superintendent at Arrowhead GC. Tim is originally from Denmark, WI. The new assistant at Bishops Bay CC is **Pat Immel**; Pat has moved back to Wisconsin from Colorado, where he served as an assistant at Lakewood CC. Pat hails originally from Fond du Lac and had worked at South Hills GC. The Meadows of Six Mile Creek GC has a new superintendent, **Rob Schultz**, who was moved up from an assistant position. Rob has worked there for the past nine years. The new superintendent at Winwood CC is **Pat Connaughty**. Pat has been with the Bruce Company since 1997. He is a UW-Stevens Point graduate and worked at SentryWorld prior to coming to the Bruce Company.

Rock River CC has hired **Dave Busse** as the new superintendent. Dave has worked the past few years as assistant at The Bridges GC in Madison. Hiawatha GC has hired **Bret Mullikin** as superintendent. Bret moves up from Hillmoor CC in Lake Geneva where he has served as superintendent. Voyager Village GC has hired **Steve Johnson** as the new superintendent. Steve moves up from Foxfire GC in Waupaca where he has served as superintendent for several years. **Bud Ridley** has taken over as superintendent at Silver Spring GC in Menomonee Falls. Bud has moved in from Flint, Michigan. Bud

was superintendent at Chandler Park GC for the past six years.

## Wisconsin Turf Industry Updates

We have a few superintendents who have now moved into sales representative positions. **Scott Neary**, former superintendent at Beaver Dam CC, is the new equipment salesman for Reinders covering the Southwestern part of the state from Madison to LaCrosse and down to Janesville. Scott had been at Beaver Dam CC for the past six years. He hails from Bismark, North Dakota, and graduated from Anoka Tech in Minnesota.

**Mike Werth** has decided to jump into sales, as he is the new sales representative for Wisconsin Turf. Mike has served the past five years as superintendent at Monroe CC. Mike holds a BS degree from UW-Madison in Soil Science. Mike will cover the southwestern part of the state for Wisconsin Turf.

## Weddings and Births

**Jeff Townley**, superintendent at Hawk's View GC in Lake Geneva, and his wife Alix, welcomed their first child, a baby boy, Eli Henry. Eli was born on November 13, 2005 and weighed in at 7 lbs, 12 oz. Congratulations!!

**Zak Reineking**, assistant superintendent at Erin Hills GC, was married on February 4th to Bridget. They enjoyed a warm honeymoon in Jamaica. Congratulations to you both!!

There are new superintendent and assistant positions being filled as I write this. We want to capture all the changes, so please email the news to [twentz@reinders.com](mailto:twentz@reinders.com) or call me at 608-220-6592 or let your local Reinders rep know. 