

# Badger State Turf Clippings

By Tom Wentz and the Reinders Team

Conference season is over and I sense in my travels that everyone is ready for spring and golf course openings. In southern Wisconsin, March came in like a roaring lion, so if the old theory is right, it should go out like a lamb. We'll see!! At least we will be starting out spring in a better light than two years ago when many golf courses were dealing with severe ice damage. It appears that snow mold damage is minimal, despite the strange start to winter.... warm for most of December, no frost the first week in January; then cold, snow cover and bitter cold. It appears that some golf courses may be opening earlier than planned. Hope the golf courses experiences a great start to the spring golf season!!

It seems that each spring brings along many superintendent changes and this year is no exception. I certainly wish all of you the best of success in your new jobs!!

## Superintendent Moves

**Gary Johnson** has left Whitnall Park GC where he had served as superintendent for two years to take over as superintendent at the Donald Ross designed Kenosha Country Club. Gary, who is a UW-Madison graduate, had served for 10 years as superintendent at Brynwood Country Club in Milwaukee.

**Scott Bartosh** has moved over to become superintendent at Meadowbrook Country Club in Racine. Scott had served for 13 years as superintendent at Kenosha Country Club. Prior to this Scott worked at several fine golf courses in the Chicagoland area as assistant superintendent.

**Grayson Harms** is the new superintendent at Tuscumbia Golf Club in Green Lake. Grayson had been serving the past four years as an assistant at Cress Creek Golf Club in Naperville, Illinois. He was born and raised in Madison, and worked

for three summers at Maple Bluff Country Club in Madison. He is a 2003 graduate of UW-Madison with a BS degree in turfgrass management in the Department of Soil Science.

**Mark Finnessy** has moved over to Winagamie Golf Club in Neenah to take over the superintendent position. Mark has spent the past three years serving as an assistant under Steve Schmidt at Butte Des Morts Country Club in Appleton. Mark completed the two-year turf program at Michigan State.

**Joe Knudsen** is now the new superintendent at Foxboro Golf Course in Oregon. Prior to this Joe had served as an assistant at Evansville Golf Course in Evansville.

**Kenton Rhoades** is now the new superintendent at Lake Windsor Country Club in Windsor. Kenton had served as superintendent at Prairie Woods Golf Course in Avalon for the past five years. Kenton is working on his turfgrass management certificate at Penn State which he hopes to complete in the next year.

**Brian Harbison** has taken over as superintendent at Prairie Woods Golf Club. Brian has been serving as an assistant at Oconomowoc Country Club. Prior to this, he did his internship at the Pittsburgh Field Club. Brian is a graduate of the Penn State turfgrass management program.

## Assistant Superintendents

Mike Purubsky graduated from UW-Madison with a BS degree in turfgrass management in the Department of Soil Science in December 2006 and is now the assistant superintendent at Silver Spring GC in Menomonee Falls. Mike had served his internship at Bristlecone Pines GC and Geneva National.

**Jared Kamin** is back in Wisconsin after completing the two-year program at Penn State and his internship in Boston, Mass at the

Westin Golf Club. Jared will be serving as second assistant at the Legend at Brandybrook Golf Club in Pewaukee under Jake Renner.

## New Parents

**Scott Neary** and his wife Samantha welcomed their first child, a baby girl, on January 25th. Sofia Scott Neary weighed in at 7 lbs 4 oz and 20 1/2 inches long. Scott is the Territory Manager for Reinders in Southern Wisconsin for equipment. Congratulations!!

**Mark Livingston** and his wife Michelle had a baby girl on Feb. 27th. Ashley Grey weighed in at 8 lbs even. Ashley will be a nice complement to the two boys in the family. Mark is superintendent at Stoughton Country Club. Congratulations!!

That is all the news for now. I'm sure we missed some. Please pass along any news in the turf business to your Reinders rep. We don't want to leave anyone out. You can also email me at [twentz@reinders.com](mailto:twentz@reinders.com) or call me at 608-220-6592. ♡

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