

# Badger State Turf Clippings

By Tom Wentz and the Reinders Team

I do not know what it is about our business but it seems everything we do or talk about revolves around the weather. Golf course's playing field is outside and we function within what Mother Nature gives us. So for us in much of lower Wisconsin, this has been a winter we have not seen in a while. Browsing the Noernet will show concerns by superintendents about the effect the snow and ice may have on greens coming through the winter. While at this stage in late February, the jury is still out, there have been hopeful signs reported by a few superintendents who have taken plugs out of their greens, gradually thawed them and report good, green looking growth. We hope for the best for all and March will give us the answer... at least I hope we have melted the snow and ice by then!

For those of you who ventured to Orlando, Florida to the GIS show... it was a record breaker according to reports. The Wisconsin hospitality was well attended as I could attest by the "squeeze" factor in trying to roam around the bar. Hope all of you gathered what you needed to improve your ability to do your job better and enjoyed the nice, warm weather along the way. Spring is coming!

## New Jobs

**Kevin Knudtson** has been promoted to Director of Golf Course Maintenance at Geneva National GC. Kevin has been superintendent at the Palmer course for 6 years. He received his turf degree from Iowa State University in 2001. Kevin has worked 10 plus years in the golf course business. Congratulations!

**Jeremy Braudt** is the new superintendent at Baraboo CC. Jeremy has worked at Baraboo CC for the past 3 years as assistant. He hails from Fennimore, Wi. Congratulations on your promotion!

## Industry News

**Reinders, Inc.** announced it has acquired the Toro commercial equipment and golf irrigation distributorship for Chicago, northeast Illinois and Lake County, Indiana previously handled by Turf Professionals Equipment, (TPEC) of St. Louis. Reinders will operate out of the TPEC location in Franklin Park, IL. All the current TPEC employees will be joining Reinders, Inc.

**Wisconsin Turf**, Janesville was named Textron-Jacobsen's North American Dealer of the Year. Congratulations to Lyle Christopherson and the rest of the staff at Wisconsin Turf.

**George Gerbers**, service technician for Reinders in the Appleton branch, received his Toro Master Service Certification. There are only four technicians in the world that have received this certification. George started working for Reinders in May of 2000. In order for Toro to grant the Master Service Technician Certification, George was required to attain equipment certification on five current Toro product lines, the Groundsmaster, Reelmaster and Greensmaster mowers, the Workman utility vehicle and

the MultiPro sprayer. He had to pass tests on each piece of equipment with a score of 80% or better. A great accomplishment... congratulations George!

## Birth News

**Kevin Knutsen**, new superintendent at Geneva National and Brooke welcomed their first child on Christmas Day! Ava Aloise Knudtson weighed in at 6 lbs 2 oz. What a Christmas gift!

**Todd Fregien** of Pendelton Turf and his wife Christy welcomed a new daughter, Gracie Suzanne on Dec. 29. She weighed in at 6 lbs 12 oz and joins her brother Riley and big sister Abby. Congratulations!

**Dustin Riley**, superintendent at Oconomowoc CC and his wife Jamileen celebrated the birth of a second daughter, Riann Adelaide on Jan. 9. Riann weighed in at 7 lbs 11 oz. She joins her sister Dayle Patricia. Congratulations!

**Dave Swift**, superintendent at Whistling Straits GC and his wife Shelly welcomed into the world their first child, a boy, Charlie Michael. Little Charlie came in at 8 1/2 lbs. He was born just before Valentines Day. February 13th. Congratulations!

With all the birth announcements, I have to join in by announcing the birth of our 3rd grandchild to Tara and Dan Hulbert. Sydney Paige was born on Feb. 22. She weighed in 6 lbs 14 oz. She will be joining our other two grandchildren. Alexis and Isaac.

## Not Just Another Fish Story!

Dave Swift, Whistling Straits along with Jeff Rottier, Erin Hills GC, and Mike Upthegrove, Watertown CC ventured to the Lake of the Woods in northern Minnesota in early January for a little ice fishing. Dave reeled in a 48-pound Lake Sturgeon using a purple/gold rod and reel named Adrian Peterson (sounds like a Viking fan!) on a 6 lb test line. Fortunately, Mike drilled him a 10" hole as the fish became stuck coming up the hole and two guys had to pull it out. It took four guys 1 hour to reel him in. The picture below proves this is not just another fish story!

Lastly, I welcome any news that is fit to print about happenings in the Wisconsin golf course business. Just email me at [twentz@reinders.com](mailto:twentz@reinders.com) or call me at 608-220-6592.



Dave Swift shows off his 48 pound Lake Sturgeon caught on a 6lb test line.