

# Badger State Turf Clippings

By Tom Wentz and the Reinders Team

Spring supposedly came on the scene in March, but what an extreme Spring we have had so far. Not exactly great golf weather with it coming on later, colder, wetter and windier!! Oh well, we will manage the extremes the best we can and make the most of the slow start to the season.

## In Memoriam

On Sunday, April 27, 2008 we lost a key contributor to the golf business in Wisconsin. **Ralph Christopherson** past away at the age of 89. He founded Wisconsin Turf Equipment Corporation in Janesville in 1956. Ralph sold the company to his son Lyle in February 2001. Our thoughts and prayers are extended to the family and friends.

## Superintendent Moves

While there have not been many changes in superintendent jobs in 2007 and early 2008, in the past 2 months we have seen significant moves. Here are the latest:

**Rob Nixon** is the new superintendent at Rock River Hills GC in Horicon. Rob is a graduate of Southern Illinois University with a BS in Plant and Soil Science. He has made his move up from the Chicago area, where he served as assistant at Bull Valley GC and most recently Barrington Hills GC.

**Bruce Livingston** is the new superintendent at Mascoutin CC in Berlin. Bruce is a graduate of Eastern Illinois University and also the turfgrass program at Michigan State. Bruce has had over 20 years of golf course experience serving at Lawsonia GC; Grand Geneva GC; Trappers Turn GC; Coldwater Canyon and most recently as assistant at Northern Bay GC.

**Chris Jens** is the new superintendent at BlackStone Creek GC in Germantown. Chris holds a BS degree in Biology and Environmental Science from UW-Green Bay. He also completed the 2 year turf program at Rutgers. He has worked as the assistant at Ozaukee CC for the past 5 years.

**Scott Anthes** is the new superintendent and general manager at Brown County GC in Green Bay. Scott holds a BS degree in turf from UW-Madison. In 2000, he was involved with the new construction and grow in of Kestrel Ridge GC until 2005. In 2005 he moved to the job at Northern Bay GC for finish the grow in and management of the golf course.

**Paul Schippers** has taken over as superintendent at Northern Bay GC in Arkdale. Paul is a graduate of the turf program at Michigan State. He served as superintendent for 22 years at The Moors GC in western Michigan. He moved to Wisconsin to take over as superintendent at Muskego Lakes GC where he served for 3 years.

**Todd Clendenning** is the new superintendent at American Legion GC in Wausau. Todd is a graduate of UW-Stevens Point. He got his golf course management experience at Stevens Point GC and more recently as assistant at Greenwood Hills GC.

**Matt Schmitz** has taken over the superintendent position at Whispering Springs GC in Fond du Lac. Matt is a graduate of the turf program at Penn State. He had served as an assistant at Milwaukee CC for 6 years. For the past 5 years he served as superintendent at Bishops Bay CC in Madison. Prior to his Penn State schooling he worked for Scott Schaller at South Hills GC in Fond du Lac.

**Jeremy Amosson** is the new superintendent at Bishops Bay CC in Madison. Jeremy is a graduate of Iowa State University. Most of his golf course experience has come as assistant and superintendent for the past 12 years at Geneva National GC.

As you can see, there has been quite a lot of moves. If I have missed anyone please email or call me. Congratulations to all!!

## New Assistant Superintendents

**John Rautmann** is the new assis-

tant superintendent at Hidden Glen CC in Cedarburg. John is a graduate of Rutgers and also holds a BS degree from UW in Political Science. He has extensive golf course work experience serving at Blackwolf Run CC, Winged Foot GC during the US Amateur and US Open, and more recently at Victoria National GC in Indiana.

**Ben LaBarre** will be serving as the new assistant for the River GC at Blackwolf Run. Ben has been working as an assistant at Bristlecone Pines CC. Ben is a graduate of UW and spent 2 seasons at Baltustrol CC in New Jersey during the PGA Championship.

Wisconsin has a good crop of assistant superintendents that will be moving into greater golf management roles in the future. Congratulations!!

I'm sure I have missed some of the 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. ♡

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