

Badger State Turf Clippings

By John Jensen and the Reinders Team

As I begin to write this article, it is now January and all of my favorite season's have past. I look out the window on this sunny, bitterly cold Saturday morning and wonder what the heck happened to my fall hunting season. I promised myself again this year that I would spend more of my free time getting out to do the things that I love but events out of my control keep a lot of this from becoming reality.

This fall was either to wet or to hot to take my German Shorthair out for some Pheasant hunting and when we did get the chance we ran into tons of other people thinking the same thing. She and I also found that the DNR must have decided to spend our pheasant stamp money on other things like park benches and ATV trails instead of stocking the Pheasants we were promised a few years back.

I did manage to get out duck hunting now and then but like so many other Duck Hunters in the country we all sat staring at Blue sky's as the seasonably warm temperatures allowed the migrating birds to stay up in Canada for the 2009 hunting season. It figures that three days after the season ended the cold front pushed through and if you were able to witness the migration it was a sight to see. Thousands of Ducks and Geese riding the strong North Winds that was just in front of the front. Three days late, just doesn't seem fair but that's hunting.

I received an email from Mike Schmieden of Evergreen Golf Course the other day that read: "The Wisconsin DNR is asking that all Deer Lawn ornaments be removed by January 10th so the DNR doesn't miscount the deer herd again this year during their annual census". Seems fitting by the reports I have heard when talking with all of you that do deer hunt. I have heard of a few successful people but it is certainly the minority this year.

I ran into Dennis Dary at the WTA event held this past December and he

told me he took another beautiful buck while deer hunting. I am hoping to have a picture to put into an upcoming article if I can snag one from him.

Births:

Jamie Ritchie Superintendent of Chaska Golf Course and his wife Christy welcomed their first child, a son who was born October 27th weighing in at 9 lbs, 3 oz.

Chris Fandre, Superintendent at Nagawaukee Golf Course and his wife Nicki had their 3rd daughter. Born November 20th, they named her Colette Elizabeth. Chris and Nicki have two other children, Trinity 10 and Aleigha 8. Colette has the same birthday as her older sister Aleigha.

Zach Reineking who is the Superintendent at Erin Hills Golf Course and wife Bridget had a baby girl, Nola Sue born on October 26, 2009. She was 9lbs 4oz and 23 inches long

Congratulations to all the new Mom's and Dad's throughout the state, now go get some sleep

Industry News:

Brendan Dolan has joined Westmoor Country Club as their new 2nd Assistant. Brendan graduated spring of 2009 from UW-Madison. He worked at Erin Hills during construction and did his internship at Ballyneal a newer fescue golf course in Holyoke, CO designed by Tom Doak. In his free time he is an assistant basketball coach at University Lakes School in Hartland. Congratulations Brendan!

Matt Meacham has taken on the new Superintendent position at Peninsula Park Golf Course. Matt came to Peninsula Park by way of The Orchards at Egg Harbor where he had been the Superintendent since it began in the early 1990's.- Congratulations Matt.

I did get a chance a few weeks back to talk with Gary Johnson who up until this late fall was heading up the Grounds team at Kenosha Country Club. He was in good spirits and has been actively out looking for a new job around the coun-

try. Like so many these past couple of years, a good person who is out in search of a new gig. I have known Gary for almost 15 years now and he is a class act. Always friendly, smiling and ready to have a laugh or two. As I have always tried to live by the thought that one door closes and another opens. I am confident that bigger and better things lie ahead for Gary and his family.

Kevin Knudsen has joined Reinders as the Madison Store Manager. A certified Golf Course Superintendent, for the past 10 years he has worked as a territory manager for the Arthur Clesen Company, an Illinois distributor to the green industry. Previous to that he worked for Crown Golf as a superintendent with assignments at different courses throughout Illinois. Currently, Kevin resides in Love Park, IL with his wife Kelly and four daughters - Christine is a sophomore at NIU, Kelly is a freshman at Columbia University, in sixth grade is Natalia and probably not bringing any challenges (yet) is Aleah - 21 months old. When Kevin has time he enjoys downhill skiing and golfing. (I wonder if that is at the same time. If so, that's amazing)

I had the chance last night to visit with about 30 former employees of Jacobsen as they held their every five year reunion in Racine. My wife was a former employee of Jacobsen when they were located in Racine so I got to know many of the factory employee's that worked in the plant throughout its 75 year history. Although not one of them remained within this industry, it is always fun to reminisce and listen to how much fun they had as a team and a family during those great years throughout the 70's, 80's and 90's. I do get asked how the Turf Business is now days. And I just smile and usually say the same thing, "Wish it were the 90's again." Although I do look forward to the new decade ahead as I feel there are good things to come. For all of us! 