



The Legend at Bristlecone Hosts The Wisconsin State Open

By **David Brandenburg**, Golf Course Manager, Rolling Meadows Golf Course

Josh LePine a 15 year WGCSA member is charged with preparing The Legend at Bristlecone Golf Course for the 90th Wisconsin State Open August 23, 24, 25. Josh started in golf at Stoughton Country Club in Stoughton working in the clubhouse. Soon LePine was asked by Superintendent Andy Nelson to night water and work on the golf course.

Josh enjoyed his time on the golf course and went on to the University of Wisconsin Madison where he received his degree in Turfgrass Management. He was selected to intern at the 36 hole Winged Foot Golf Club for the summer of 1995. One of 8 interns that year Josh had an advantage over the others thanks to taking Spanish classes in high school and college. Being able to communicate fluently with the Hispanic staff on the large property was helpful to Josh as he learned the different

aspects of upscale private club management.

After returning to UW to graduate in December of 1995 Josh was offered the opportunity to join the staff at Winged Foot in part due to his success dealing with the staff as an intern. Josh jumped at the opportunity and was fortunate to be at Winged Foot for the 1997 PGA Championship.

LePine stayed at Winged Foot until the opportunity at Bristlecone opened up in 1998. Bristlecone Pines was designed by Scott Miller a former designer for Jack Nicklaus and plays to 7005 yards. The property started as 363 acres with 200 dedicated to the golf course. Malec Holdings was the original developer of the facility that featured 181 single family homes and 44 golf villa condominiums.

In 2009 the golf course was bought by The Legends Partners that also own and manage The

Legend at Brandybrook in Wales, and the Legend at Bergamont in Madison. An ownership change can be a nervous time for staff members but Josh has had many positives come out of the change. He is no longer tasked with maintaining properties in the subdivision or fixing lights in the clubhouse as a regular part of his day.



Joey, Josh, Matthew, Sonja and Naomi LePine



Bristlecones Par 3 4th Hole plays 199 yard from the Gold Tees

The property is surrounded by beautiful houses and it does offer agronomic challenges for Josh and the staff. One of the biggest challenges is maintaining good turf on the 17th green. It is a small par 3 green nestled in a low-land surrounded by hills and trees that receives no sunlight before 9:00 am and has limited air movement. Josh uses a portable Subair system to help remove extra water from the green and is in the process of thinning out the wooded hillsides by removing the buckthorn and other invasive underbrush to allow for some air movement.

Traveling the property can also be a challenge for the maintenance staff as the streets and houses limit cross traffic between holes adding time to every task.

When asked what the best fea-



The Par 3 sixth hole features Bristlecone and large waste sand areas.

tures of the Legend at Bristlecone were Le Pine was quick to point out the unique design in comparison to other Wisconsin Golf Courses.

Miller added massive sandy waste bunkers with rock outcroppings and ornamental grasses to give the facility an Arizona look. The



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The 12th hole at Bristlecone is a par 3 plays 230 yards from the back tee.

courses Penn-Eagle fairways are wide and generous but just off the fairway golfers encounter thick rough, waste bunkers, tall fescue or water hazards. Water comes into play on about half the golf holes with a creek and pond system that meanders throughout the golf course.

Josh met his wife Sonja in his final

semester at Madison in 1995 right before moving to New York for 2 and half years, but it all worked out for the best as the couple has three children, Joey 10, Naomi 8 and Matthew 6 months. Sonja is an emergency room nurse at Children's Hospital in Milwaukee while Joey spends his time with football, baseball and X-

Box. Naomi enjoys dance, music and Webkins.

When Josh is not working or just spending time with the family he enjoys golf, fishing, hunting, skiing, playing poker and riding his motorcycle. The family likes to camp and canoe on the Wisconsin River and a trip to Disney makes every winter a hit.

The State Open is played over 72 holes with 18 holes Monday, 18 holes Tuesday and the low 60 plus ties qualify for the final 36 holes on Wednesday. The event is open to any legal resident of the State of Wisconsin, golf professionals working as such within the state, PGA professionals working as such within the Wisconsin Section, PGA and all exempt players.

Qualifying for the 2010 Open was held at Wild Ridge GC, Koshkonong Mounds Country Club, Kenosha CC, The Bull at Pinehurst Farms, Washington County Golf Course, Morningstar Golfers Club, Royal St

WGCSA Mission Statement

The Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association is committed to serve each member by promoting the profession and enhancing the growth of the game of golf through education, communication and research.

WGCSA Vision Statement

The Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendent Association is dedicated to increase the value provided to its members and to the profession by:

- Enhancing the professionalism of its members by strengthening our role as a leading golf organization in the state.
- Growing and recognizing the benefits of a diverse membership throughout Wisconsin.
- Educating and promoting our members as leaders in environmental stewardship.
- Offering affordable, high value educational programs at the forefront of technology and service.
- Being key to enjoyment and the economic success of the game of golf.



Bristlecones 18th hole, a par 4 playing 402 yards for The State Open. The 3rd hole shown from green to tee plays 613 yards.

Patricks, Green Wood Hills,.

In 2009 Dan Woltman came from behind with a 70 on the final day at Blackwolf Run to tie Neil Johnson of River Falls at the 72 hole mark with a score of 283. Woltman then

won in a playoff to take the title for the second time as an amateur.

This year's open will challenge the states best players as the staff at Bristlecone will have the course ready for tournament golf.

Spectators are welcome and entry is free so take some time and enjoy a beautiful summer day walking a beautiful golf course and you might just see some great golf shots along the way! 🌿

MEMBER 9 - With Josh LePine

1. **What was your first vehicle?** My first vehicle was a 1973 Chevy Monza. It was a hand-me-down from my older brother. Previous owner rolled the car so the roof was dented in but it got me from A to B. At 16, it was all about freedom anyway, didn't much matter to me what I was driving.
2. **Favorite piece of golf course equipment?** My favorite piece of golf course equipment is my portable SubAir unit. I have two greens stubbed with a subair connection and it is one of the ways I can attempt to manage what Mother Nature throws my way.
3. **18 hole Handicap?** My golf game is definitely not my strong suit....20.
4. **What is your current vehicle?** My current vehicle is a 1999 Mercury Mountaineer. 150K, runs like a charm however. Also like to ride Sportster 1200, anybody in the area up for a ride?
5. **Favorite TV shows?** With three kids, I'm lucky to find the remote, let alone change it to what I want to watch! When I get a chance, I like watching anything on ESPN, Sportscenter.
6. **Favorite professional sports team?** Green Bay Packers
7. **Favorite main course meal?** I'm a huge fan of Stromboli.
8. **Pets?** We have a yellow Lab named Daisy, a black cat named Panther and a mouse named Butterscotch.
9. **Favorite thing about working in the golf industry?** My favorite thing about working in the golf industry is my staff. I enjoy coming to work each morning and seeing their faces ready to tackle another day. I have a nice mix of retired help, college help, Hispanic staff, husband/wife team, 3 brothers' team and student intern. Everyone works hard and well together. I couldn't ask for anything more out of a staff.