

Badger State Turf Clippings

By John Jensen and the Reinders Team

As I sit down in my living room to begin writing, my German Shorthair (Styx) is sitting in front of her favorite picture window looking outside, she has the extra spark in her eyes today as she can see more wildlife rustling around outside. Somehow I think she knows spring is near and that means more mice to hunt while waiting for pheasant season to return. We both welcome another beautiful March day with predictions of temperatures in the mid-forties. Fields of snow and ice covered rivers are giving way to our first glimpse of grass and unplowed corn fields since early December. Open rivers welcome returning geese and ducks as they work their way back to the North. I think it is safe to say that each of us in this industry looks at this time of year as a new beginning and an exciting time to show why we love what we do. Whether that means growing grass, cutting grass or selling grass—wait a minute, you know I meant growing, cutting and selling grass like Poa, Bentgrass, and Ryegrass. Geezz,

G.I.S. San Diego 2010

For those of you that did have the opportunity to attend this year Golf Industry Show, I am certain you will agree that San Diego is a great place to hold this show. The new two day trade show format seemed to be a big hit with both attendee's and vendors alike. Unlike discussions on the show floor last year, the majority of people I talked with while attending seemed very upbeat about the 2010 season.

If you did not get a chance to travel to San Diego, I would highly recommend putting it on a bucket list of places to see. Other than sitting in on meetings or standing on the trade show floor I had little time to capture the sites of San Diego, But from what I could see outside the cab window when traveling from hotel to convention center it looks to be a fantastic city with lots to offer. I look forward to returning, regardless if it is for work or for pleasure.

Industry News:

John Deere/Lesco Landscapes welcomes Micah Wise as their newest representative in Wisconsin. He is a Michigan State graduate from the class of 2001 in Turf and in 2005 completed his Bachelors of Business degree. He worked as an Assistant Superintendent at The Bear Golf course in Michigan. He started with John Deere/Lesco in 2005 in another marketplace and transferred here in September 2009. When not at work, he enjoys both golfing and camping. Welcome to Wisconsin!

Steve Blake has been brought onboard at Ridgeway Country Club as the clubs new Golf Course Superintendent. Steve is a Rutgers Graduate and has previously worked for North Shore Country Club, Milwaukee Country Club and Crystal Springs Golf Course. Congratulations Steve!

I first had the chance to meet Scott Verdun, New Golf Course Superintendent of Kenosha Country Club at a poker game in Illinois a few years back. Poor guy had the bad fortune of being on my team as I know almost nothing about the game. But he was very helpful and somehow managed to tolerate me during the event. Scott previously worked for John Nelson at The Merit Club in Libertyville, IL where he was the Assistant Superintendent for the past 4 years. Other work experience includes Medinah Country Club as Assistant Superintendent with time spent on courses 1 & 3. He interned at The Merit Club back in 2001 & 2002 and then spent a summer in New Jersey on a course construction project. He is a 2002 Turf graduate of Southern Illinois University. Scott enjoys music and is a big fan of the Cubs & Bears. Scott said he looks forward to the day that Favre comes out of his fifth retirement to become the starting quarterback for the Bears. (He didn't really say that, I just like to add Favre slamming into each of my articles)

Andy Kronwall of Lake Geneva Country Club welcomes back Gabe Hatchett as his Assistant Golf Course Superintendent. Before returning Gabe spent some time at Geneva National Golf Course. This return is sure to spark new "How I out fished" Gabe stories from Andy or vice versa but friendly fishing competition is a good thing when the course you manage just so happens to be along one of the best fishing lakes in Wisconsin.

Births:

My wife called me yesterday to inform me that Dustin Riley and his wife Jamileen welcomed their third child to the world on February 28th. This time a boy, Maguire Jamison Riley that weighed 8 lbs and was 20" long. Maguire has two older sisters Dayle and Riann. Congratulations to The Riley family!

Mike Becker, Assistant Superintendent at Horseshoe Bay Golf Club and his wife Carrie had a little boy, Jonathan Levi on January 11, 2010. Congratulations to both Mike and Carrie!

Tim Schmidt, Assistant Superintendent of Butte des Mort's, and his wife welcome the birth of their first child in early February. A girl, Alaina Rae Schmidt, 6 lbs- 9 oz. Fantastic News!

Josh LePine Golf Course Superintendent of The Legend at Bristlecone and his wife Sonja had a baby boy. Matthew Brayden born December 22, 2009. Weight 7 lbs, 14 oz. 21 1/2" long. Matthew has two older siblings, Brother Joey (10) and Sister Naomi (7).

As Promised:

Dennis Dary who has joined the sales team at Agrium Advanced Technologies is also an avid bow hunter (as mentioned in the past article) I was able to get a picture of his Buck from this past season along with a picture of three that hang in his den. Certainly proves he knows what he is doing. Great job! (He's probably wondering how I got the picture of the ones in the house, I have my sources)



Dennis Dary with a quality find.



The Dary Collection

Request: The Reinders team does a fantastic job of keeping me informed on what's happening around the State, but I want to be sure we are capturing as much as we can for this article, so please be sure to email me at the address below if you have any information that you would like included in the upcoming articles. jjensen@reinders.com.