

Badger State Turf Clippings

By John Jensen and the Reinders Team

I was recently attending a leadership program when an interesting question was posed. The question was “what is your passion?” I think for many of us, the first answer would be our careers but is that a passion? It’s great to enjoy your career, I know that I do, but is it the thing I would choose to do with my free time? “What is your passion?” This question was very interesting to me and I thought about this for a long time without a clear answer. So, when I arrived home, I asked my wife what she would say my passion is and she didn’t pause for a moment “Ducks and Pheasants” she said with a laugh. Ducks and pheasants? Of course! She is so right!

For me, the chance to hunt ducks and pheasants are what I live for each and every year and when those seasons arrive, many other things take a back seat. Nothing compares to hunting ducks and pheasants during a Wisconsin fall day.

Duck hunting gives me the chance to enjoy watching the sun rise on the back waters of the Mississippi River, or on a small silent moving river just a few miles from my home or even on a calm lake in Northern Wisconsin.

Pheasant hunting allows me another chance to take long walks with my Dad as we discuss life, the good old days and embellish on the success we have had in years past. Each time out in the field includes our other favorite hunting partner “Styx”. She has been a part of our lives for the past 10 years and although she moves a little slower than she used to she still has that same look of excitement in her eyes each time we grab our guns and head to our favorite field. With each outing, that same feeling of excitement grows when I see Styx lock on a small grass clump, then with a few more steps forward, out fly’s a beautiful rooster. These two pastimes are certainly my passion and nothing else in my life can compare. So, be sure to take time this year to nurture your passions.

Happy Retirement:

After a whopping 46 years with Horst Distributing, Rosie Meier decided to call it a career and retired this past October.

Rosie worked in the parts department at Horst for all of those 46 fabulous years. Everyone at Horst Distributing exclaimed in a message to me that Rosie will definitely be missed and that they wish her the best in her retirement years! That is certain to ring true with the many customers she worked with during her time at Horst Distributing. Congratulations Rosie on your retirement and for your ability to handle Dennis for all those years as well. You deserve an award!

Bob Knutter, Superintendent at Petrify Springs Golf Club in Kenosha will officially be retiring December 17th. Bob started at Pet’s on Jan 2, 1979 and prior to working at Petrify Springs held positions in the Chicago area at courses such as Knollwood CC, Bob-O-Link GC and Fort

Sheridan GC. He won’t be totally retired as the plan calls for him to be back at Pet’s next year as a part-timer to help in the transition of the yet to be determined replacement. In retirement he plans on doing a lot of hunting, fishing, gardening and spending time with his wife Cheryl. One item he mentioned about his time at Pet’s is he will have worked with 4 different irrigation systems, as he calls it “Moody” (which describes the system well), a Rainbird MC-3S mechanical, a Rainbird Stratus2 and currently they are installing a Toro Lynx system.

I have personally known Bob for almost 20+ years now and he has always been great guy to sit down and talk with. His long beard is his trade mark and it fits his personality great and I couldn’t imagine him without it. Regardless if you are talking work, hunting or fishing a smile is always on his face. Have a great retirement Bob, you deserve it.

Births:

Norah Lorraine was born to Hank and Shannon Koss and big sister Rachel (5) on September 29, 8lbs 11ozs. Hank is Superintendent of Royal St. Patrick’s. Hank said his plan to not interrupt pheasant season worked out just perfectly. Congratulations!

Kevin Knudtson, Director of Maintenance at Geneva National, and wife Brooke welcomed daughter Eversyn Hope to the world on August 31st. Eversyn weighed 7lbs. 3 oz and was 19.5” long. Older sister Ava (2 1/2) is sure to show Eversyn the ropes around the Knudtson household.

Chad Grimm, Superintendent of Blackhawk Country Club, and his wife Sarah welcomed the birth of their daughter Sophia. Congratulations to you both!

Mike Upthegrove, Superintendent of Watertown Country Club, and his wife Jen welcomed their new addition to the family, daughter Ruby born on August 29th. Big sister Grace is sure to be happy having a little sister around to play with. Mike has had a few exciting months lately as he has also been promoted to General Manager of Watertown Country Club.

Jeremy Dahl, Assistant Superintendent of The Club at Strawberry Creek and his wife Jessica welcomed Ryan Charles Dahl to the family on September 9th. Ryan weighed 7 lbs. 3 oz. and was 20.5 inches. He joins big sister Allison, age 4 to the Dahl family. There is never going to be a Dahl moment in Jeremy’s household.

Industry News:

Tim Adas has been promoted from Assistant of Lake Ripley Country Club to Superintendent. Lake Ripley Country is located in Cambridge, Wisconsin and was established in 1915. Congratulations to Tim for this great promotion.

Lee Radal Superintendent of House on the Rock Resort celebrated his 42nd year with the 27 hole resort golf course. Lee began working on the grounds crew



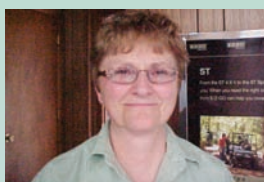
Dennis Dary and his 9 point buck



Tom Speltz with a 8 point buck



Scott Gilbertson with his 30 pound Musky



46 years at Horst Distributing, Happy retirement Rosie!



Bob Speltz and his 12 point buck out-hunts son Tom!

back when it was still known as the Springs Golf Course. This facility has some great history dating back to 1967 when the property was first purchased by Racine native Frank Lloyd Wright. The first course opened in 1971 and was designed by Robert Trent Jones, Sr. The North Nine was designed by Roger Packard and two-time U.S. Open Champion Andy North and was opened in May of 1994. With a few ownership changes, the Spring Golf Course eventually became associated with The House on the Rock and the rest is history. Congratulations to Lee for being a big part of this courses history.

Just like a mid season NFL draft, Reinders has acquired Cubby O'Brien on a cubby for cubby trade. Cubby O'Brien joins Reinders sales team by way of Chicagoland Turf Supply and will cover various accounts throughout Southern Wisconsin. My sources tell me that this trade will also include two third round draft picks and a second round to be determined later. I'm cheering for you Cubby, just stop sending me those text messages!

Updates:

I had the chance to visit with Myron Seaver (former sales rep for Wisconsin Turf) a few weeks back. As you may recall, Myron had triple bi-pass surgery this past summer. Well fast forward and he is back to work at Delbrook Golf Course and doing fantastic. He looks great and say's he feels fantastic. He also assures me he has not touched a Cigar since his heart troubles began. Great to see!

Matt Kregal of Strawberry Creek has undergone his second surgery on his ankle after his unfortunate accident while bowling. This down time gives him a chance to send me bad jokes and raide my case about parts shipments. Hope your feeling better Matt.

Tis the season:

Tom Speltz, Assistant Superintendent of North Hills Country Club and his dad Bob had a great day of bow hunting on their property in Northwestern Wisconsin. In one day, Tom took a 20in wide 8 pt. buck that scored in the 145 range while his dad hit a monster 12 pt. that scored 158. Now that's a day to remember. Now all I need is the address and keys to his place and I am sure to have a good deer hunt as well.

Dennis Dary did not let me down this season, as I received this fantastic picture of another fabulous 9 pt. buck. He said it was easy to find because it fell down in front of one of his trail cams. Maybe it thought it was on the Deer TV's 1000 ways to die. "Death by Dary" These three guys certainly put in the time and effort to find these Wisconsin treasures.

Scott Gilbertson of Reinders landed this fabulous Musky while fishing with his son on St. Germain Lake. I should rephrase that, he didn't use his son to catch the fish but found that a jig and minnow on 8 lb test would do the trick just as well. They estimated this fish to be about 30 lbs. In ten years it will be 45 lbs on 4 lb test and home-made bait on the end of a stick. Very nice Scott!

I had the privilege to harvest a nice Wisconsin Black Bear back in September. This journey began over 9 years ago when I started putting in for the yearly point system that was required to draw a black bear tag. It was one of six different black bears I encountered during my three days hunting. This was an experience of a lifetime that I can't wait to do again. Looks like I have to add this in as one of my new passions.

Have a safe and happy holiday season. 🌿