

Badger State Turf Clippings

By John Jensen and the Reinders Team

With another summer now in the books, I think many of you would agree it couldn't get here soon enough. The weather in Wisconsin this season has thrown almost every curve it could at the golf courses and superintendents alike. Rain, rain and more rain was the consistent theme and it was delivered in typhoon like fashion more than once. It is impossible to say who suffered from this pattern more, but I would personally say Steve Schmidt at Butte des Morts Country Club is easily in the top 5.

The last time I stopped to see Steve was right after the sixth flood of the season was receding from the course. After walking around for a bit, I found Steve and his assistant, Tim behind the maintenance facility building with what looked like an Ark, so you know they were dealing with a lot of rain. I convinced them to take a break from the construction project at which time they shared a group of photos that showed the flood at its peak. Some of the photo's showed areas where the greens were 12 feet under the river water line and even the tallest bridges were covered by the rushing Fox River. By June 12th the course had already flooded for the fifth time which totaled 10.5 inches and on the 22nd of that month another 1.25" dropped adding insult to injury.

Upon my departure from Butte des Morts I asked Steve if I could join them in the Ark if that time came but I was informed he already had two equipment sales representatives. Can you imagine how tough a decision he is going to have picking two chemical/fertilizer salesmen?

Heat and humidity were the other themes of the summer and from reports, disease pressure managed to clean out the overstock chemicals you may have had on the shelves from the past seasons. This summer may be a sign that it becomes necessary for many committees, owners and general managers to readjust the chemical budgets for the upcoming seasons and beyond.

I cannot remember a year over the past two decades where the grass never went dormant. Greens, tees, fairways and roughs just kept growing and growing, which was also evident by the equipment repair shops throughout Wisconsin. In the end, I think it is safe to say we are all going to be glad to see the cooler weather of fall arrive.

Industry News:

Jeremy Seiler has been promoted from Golf Course Assistant to Superintendent of Kettle Hills Golf Course. Before taking the Assistant position with Kettle Hills, Jeremy spent four seasons in Green Bay at Thornberry Creek CC while working on his associate's degree in Landscape/Horticulture at NWTC. Back in high school he worked at Hillcrest Country Club in Altoona, Wisconsin.

Lee Suwalski, Jr. was recently promoted from 2nd Assistant to 1st Assistant Superintendent of Kettle Hills Golf Course in November. Lee earned a bachelor's degree in Environmental Sciences with an emphasis on Turfgrass Management at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities in December 2008. Prior to his graduation, Lee interned for one season at Lake Geneva Country Club, and two seasons at TPC-Twin Cities. Lee began his interest in the golf industry with his first job at Rainbow Springs in Mukwonago, Wisconsin at the age of 15.

The first week in August was very hectic around Kettle Hills. Jeremy and his wife, Ashley was expecting their first child and Lee was planning to get married August 7th to his fiancée, Katie.

Bruce Schweiger joined Chicagoland Turf as their newest Sales representative; Chicagoland Turf is headquartered out of Addison, Illinois. Bruce has a diverse background which began with a "short" career in movies as a stunt double for Spanky in the Little Rascals and a starring roll as an ump-a lump-a in Willie Wonka and the Chocolate Factory. In his later years, Bruce went on to become a superintendent on a golf course in Janesville and then moved on to begin his sales career with the Scott's Company. After a successful career with the Scott's Company, Bruce joined Reinders as a territory manager for the softgoods division.

I have known Bruce for many years as a competitor and as a co-worker and in either case he remains a fun guy to golf and travel with. I wish him well in his journey and new job and hope he knows I now forgive him for helping out on that prank with the dead mouse in my dress shoes a few golf shows back. Dead mouse in the shoe equals (1) ump-a lump-a joke!

Nate Keller has been hired as the new Assistant at Kenosha Country Club. Nate is currently working on his degree from Penn State's online turfgrass sci-

ence program and hopes to be graduating this December with a bachelor's degree. Nate has worked on many different golf courses with his first job being at Camargo Club in his hometown of Cincinnati, Ohio. He also spent time in Columbus, Ohio and then spent two years at a course in Tucson, Arizona. Nate did his internship at Lake Geneva Country Club where he worked with long time superintendent Andy Kronwall. Nate loves to spend time outdoors and is a loyal fan of his hometown Cincinnati Reds, Bengals, and Ohio State Buckeyes. Lyons, Tigers and Buckeyes? Oh My!

Birth Announcements:

Kenton Rhodes Superintendent of Lake Winsor Golf Club became a father on May 20th to a son, Jackson Robert Rhodes. Congratulations to both Mom and Dad!

Jeremy Seiler Golf Course Superintendent of Kettle Hills and wife Ashley welcomed to the world a baby girl. Addison Laine Seiler was born on July 24th. She weighed in at 8lbs 2 oz.

Steve Blake, Superintendent of Ridgeway Golf Course and his wife Kari were blessed with the birth of a baby boy, Isaac Steven Blake. Isaac was born on August 5th and weighed in at 8 lbs, 4 oz. and was 22 inches long.

Broken Ankle Sidelines Golf Course Superintendent: Although the statistics are over a decade old they still show the risks involved when someone partakes in a grueling sport outside of the workplace just ask Matt Kregel, Golf Course Superintendent of The Club at Strawberry Creek.

In 1998, 23,130 people were injured in this country while shooting for that challenging and rare chance at the perfect game. That's right, bowling! Not boxing, hockey or even cheerleading can complete with the injuries seen in



The staff at Butte des Morts cleans up after one of the many floods this summer.

this sport. Bowlers thrive on the feeling of living on the edge that this sport offers and Matt is no exception to the rule. So why take the chance?? Why risk it all? It's all about the beer, the special colored 6 lb balls and those silly looking Ronald McDonald rental shoes, commented Matt.

So, how is it possible that on his second practice throw he slipped and fell with his right foot under him? Was it his stellar like reflex actions that had him reach down causing him to face the wrong way? No matter how it happened, Matt earned himself a trip in the ambulance to the ER. He ended up having surgery one week later as his fibula was broken (not torn as I have experienced a few April fools

ago) in multiple places, midway between his ankle and knee and the tibia was broken at the end above the ankle.

So next time you want to risk bodily injury (aside from attending a Cubs game at Wrigley field while wearing a Brewers jersey or Visa Versa) put away those Speedo's, get off that diving board and take up bowling it's worth the broken ankle and the ability to have an excuse to watch your favorite football team from the comfort of your favorite chair.

Please be sure to email me with any information you would like added to the next article at jjensen@reinders.com

Welcome New Members

- Chris Quinlan - Class E Affiliate - Becker Underwood
- Ryan Nass - Class C Assistant Supt. - Koshkonong Mounds GC
- Gregg Scherneck - Class D Member - Kestrel Ridge GC