

News and Notes From WGCSA Members

By John Jensen and The Reinders Team

Official State Superintendent:

Jon Hegge, Golf Course Superintendent of Evansville Country Club was selected this past year to officiate the Girls State Division 3 WIAA Basketball Championship Finals. This was held at the Kohl Center in Madison and was a game between the Altoona and Kewaskum High Schools. Ultimately the Altoona girls won and took home the honors for 2011. This is the second time that Jon has officiated state finals. The first time was back in 2009 when he was asked to officiate the boy's tournament. He has also officiated for the state Cross Country twice and the Division 4 All State Women's Track. Jon says being an official is like being a superintendent, "You can never keep everyone happy."

New Superintendent:

Bryan Bergner has officially accepted the position of Golf Course Superintendent for Westmoor Country Club located in Brookfield, WI. After high school, Bryan decided to enroll at UW-Milwaukee and pursue a career in Criminal Justice. Not long after graduation, his life took a different direction when he began maintaining the grounds at Moorland Golf. He soon found that he had a desire to pursue a career in golf course maintenance. From 2003 to 2005 he worked as an assistant superintendent at New Berlin Hills Golf Course. He then joined Jerry Kershasky at Westmoor Country Club as the assistant golf course superintendent. When he wasn't working, Bryan concentrated all his efforts in working towards receiving his Turfgrass certificate from Penn State University. Bryan and his wife Danielle have been married for 10 years and have a 2 ½ year old boy named 'Miles'. This is certainly exciting times for both of them. Congratulations on your new position.

UW-Graduate turned Ironman:

On September 11, 2011, Ben Pease who is currently a graduate student at UW-Madison competed in the Ironman Wisconsin triathlon in Madison. It began with a 2.4 mile swim in Lake Monona, followed by a 112 mile bike ride that took him through southwest Madison into western Dane county. This was followed immediately by a marathon of 26.2 miles through downtown Madison and the UW-Madison campus. The total race added to more than 140.6 miles.



Ben Pease at the Finish Line at the Ironman Wisconsin.

Ben's swim time was 1 hour 15 minutes, his bike time was 6 hours and 15 minutes and his marathon time was 4 hours and 40 minutes. Total finish time, with transitions, was 12 hours 26 minutes and 5 seconds. He finished 64th in his age division and 686th overall out of about 2500 entrants. Ben is looking to do it all over again in 2013. Congratulations, Ben, on this outstanding accomplishment.

Here is some advice from one Ironman to another. (That's what the Reinders guys call me when we go off to the Golf Show. I'm the guy chosen to do the ironing of the shirts.) Anyways, here's my advice. Invest in a boat, motorcycle and powered roller blades. You will easily cut your time in half and never work up a sweat. Don't rule out the fact that chicks dig boats, bikes and blades. Just kidding, way to go!

He's Backkkkkkkkk!!!!

Jerry Kershasky has joined Reinders, Inc to help serve the Chicago market. He will be a Territory Manager in the Soft Goods Business Group responsible for sales and product support.

For the past 37 years, Jerry has been the golf course superintendent at Westmoor Country Club.

He is past director of the Wisconsin Turfgrass Association where he directed the efforts of the Turf Diagnostics Lab and raised funds for research.

Throughout his career he has spoken at numerous industry conferences, most recently this past January at the Great Lakes Trade Expo/Michigan Turfgrass Conference. His presentation, "Hot Gas & Regrass" focused on fumigating greens and reseeding them. Garth Brooks, Michael Jordan and Brett Favre all send their best wishes on Jerry's unretirement.

Last curtain call:

Just a little over three years ago, Dave Brandenburg asked if I would be willing to take on the responsibility of writing the Badger State Clippings. It is amazing how time flies and now that I have reached my last article; I'm just not sure how to feel. I travel throughout the state and although it hasn't happened too often, it has all been worthwhile when someone says to me "I just wanted you to know that your article is the first one I read". It probably doesn't hurt that it has been on the back page for many of those issues, but it has always been nice to hear. Of course, everyone's a critic. "Hey, your grammar stinks" or "Hey that's not how you spell Catastrophe" or "Hey you don't have to capitalize sparrow in a sentence". I just stuck with what I learned in writing class a long time ago, "Write like you talk". So what you saw is what you got. Do I really talk like that?

It always struck me funny that I could tell when an article would hit your desks. I would start getting the nasty grams from those unwilling participants that had become victims of my warped sense of humor. Bowling, boating, biking, April fools jokes, marathons, hunting, fishing, canoeing, retiring, hiring or talk about my hunting companion, 'Styx'; it was topics like these that hopefully showed each of you that there is more to our industry than just our day to day lives surrounded by golf.

I would like to thank the sales team at Reinders for your efforts in helping keep me abreast of the happenings throughout Wisconsin. Without your help, this would have been a challenging article to write.

The torch is now being passed to Matt Kinnard of DHD Turf & Tree. He is a great guy and sure to do a fantastic job with his own style. Please help to keep him informed by emailing him with any information you may have. He can be reached at m.kinnard@sbcglobal.net



Ben Pease during the 112 mile bike ride portion of the Ironman competition.

As I put the final touches on this, it is currently cloudy and very fall like outside. Winter is just around the corner and my German Shorthair Pointer, 'Styx', is sitting on her favorite chair staring at me with those big brown eyes. Somehow I think she knows that as soon as dad is done with this last paragraph, it's off to spend the rest of the morning finding pheasants together. In the end, isn't that what this life should be all about? Spending time doing what you love to do. Thanks again, everyone.

John Jensen

Editors Note: Thank you to John Jensen for his contributions to The Grass Roots and the rest of the Wisconsin sales rep force for keeping him abreast of your news. The "Clippings" used to be on the back page however John's writing ability made it impossible to fit on one page. It worked out well as the back page is prime advertising space anyway.

Good luck to Matt and the DHD Team. To the WGCSA - do not be shy. Toot your own horn on new things in your lives.