

State Amateur Visits The Club at Strawberry Creek

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

The 111th Wisconsin State Golf Association State Amateur Championship will visit Kenosha's The Club at Strawberry Creek July 16 to 19. Matt Kregel will be the host superintendent for the states best players.

The Club At Strawberry Creek opened in 2006 with a Rick Jacobsen design. The links layout features fescue native grasses and wide fairways. The Par 72 layout offers yardages from 5,100 to 7,118 and the back tees have a slope of 135 and rating of 74.8.

Kregel took over as superintendent in spring of 2005 to oversee construction and grow-in. The open layout lends itself to high winds making it difficult to maintain soil moisture levels and to find a good time to apply pesticides and fertilizers.

Matt is hoping the wind is blowing for the Amateur to produce firm and fast conditions.

The 50 acres of fairways were seeded to Seaside II, greens A1, tees Pencross and while the primary rough is Bluegrass the Secondary rough is Fescue and other natives.

Matt gives credit to Assistant Superintendent Jeremy Dahl and Equipment Technician Gumer Cruz as key members of his staff to keep the operation running smooth.

To enter the 72 hole stroke play event players need have a index of 9.4 or less, be one of the approximately 41 exempt players or qualify at one of the 9 qualifying tournaments. Players must qualify in the district of their home course unless pro-



The 460 yard par 4 18th hole with the clubhouse in the background.

viding a good reason why they cannot do so. 180 players make the field with a cut after 36 holes to allow the top 70 players and ties to play for the championship.

Four days of championship play will provide for the true state champion and winner of the Sinnissippi Cup. The cup received its name from the first championship in 1901 when the amateur was played at Sinnissippi Country Club which is now the Janesville Country Club. While players compete for individual honors WSGA member clubs with three qualifiers compete for the Yule Cup awarded to the low club after the first 36 holes of play.

Past winners of the State Amateur include US Open Winner Andy North, and

PGA Tour Players Steve Stricker, JP Hayes and Mark Wilson.

In 2011 at Maple Bluff Country Club Mike McDonald shot a final round 72 to finish with a 1 over total of 285. McDonald finished one stroke ahead of Whitefish Bay's Jack Schultz and Green Bay's Ricky Hearden. The 24 year old McDonald only took his driver out of the bag twice in the final round to stay in the narrow Maple Bluff fairways. The Germantown native played golf for Marquette College.

Kregel grew up in Beecher, IL a small community just south of Chicago. Matt started working at Shady Lawn Golf Course (Now called Cardinal Creek) as a cart boy after 8th grade. He got to know the Superintendent and by the time he was 16 he joined the grounds crew and never left the golf industry.

Matt began at Illinois State university as a business major and found a job working part time at the ISU golf course under Steve Leason. It only took two years of business classes for Kregel to realize he did not want to work indoors and his love of the golf course led him to change paths. ISU did not offer a turf program so Matt transferred to the University of Illinois and



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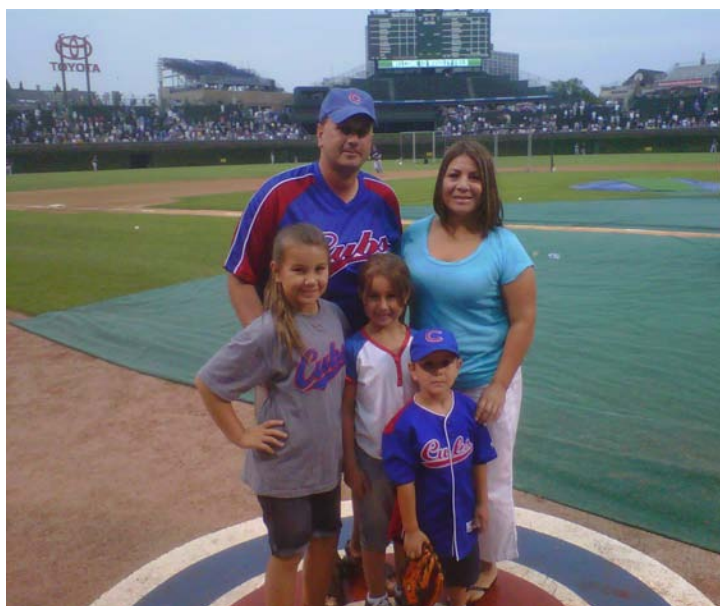
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COVER STORY



The Kregels, Matt, Rosa, Isabel Hannah and Tyler on Wriggly Field.

2012 WSGA Amateur Championship Qualifying Sites

DISTRICT #1A: LA CROSSE CC, Onalaska (La Crosse), Monday, JULY 2ND

DISTRICT #1B: LUCK GOLF COURSE, Luck, Tuesday, JUNE 26TH

DISTRICT #2: LAKE ARROWHEAD GC (PINES), Nekoosa, Tuesday, JULY 3RD

DISTRICT #3: JANESVILLE RIVERSIDE GC, Janesville, Monday, JUNE 25TH

DISTRICT #4: The OAKS GOLF COURSE, Cottage Grove, Thursday JUNE 28TH

DISTRICT #5: BRANCH RIVER GOLF & TENNIS, Cato (Manitowoc), Monday JULY 2ND

DISTRICT #6A: HAWTHORNE HILLS GOLF COURSE, Saukville, Monday JUNE 25TH

DISTRICT #6B: BROADLANDS GOLF CLUB, North Prairie (Waukesha), Thurs., JUNE 28TH

DISTRICT #6C: OAKWOOD PARK GOLF COURSE, Franklin, Monday, JULY 2ND

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changed his major to Ornamental Horticulture with a concentration in turfgrass management. Through his education and work Matt was awarded the Future Turf Managers Scholarship in 1997 by Jacobsen/Textron and the Jacki Butler Outstanding Student Scholarship in 1997 from the Illinois Turfgrass Foundation.

During college Matt interned at Prestwick County Club for Dick Trevarthan and Dave Ward at Olympia Hills in 1997 while they hosted the Senior Open.

After graduation Matt joined the staff at the Ivanhoe Club serving 3 years as second assistant and four as the senior assistant. Working for Peter Leuzinger and Tom Prichard at the prestigious club gave Kregal insight into a high level conditioning. The club was also implementing a 27 hole master renovation plan that provided construction and renovation experience he would use to grow in Strawberry Creek.

Matt and his wife Rosa live in Round Lake, IL with their 3 children Isabel, Hannah and Tyler. Being from Illinois Matt is a Fighting Illini Fan along with the Chicago Bears and Cubs. He enjoys attending games at Wriggley Field and Wriggley North or what we badgers call Miller Park.

Matt is involved in the turf industry and is a member of Golf Course Superintendents Association of America,



The 189 yard Par 3 8th Hole puts a permium on accuracy

Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents, Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association, Illinois Turfgrass Foundation, Wisconsin Turfgrass Association and the Wee One Foundation.

When he is not working or volunteering Matt enjoys traveling in the off season and heads to Mexico each year for a few weeks. He is coach for coach for his sons T-ball team.

As most of us he enjoys playing golf but

more to visit the host superintendent and enjoy a beverage or two while discussing turfgrass management.

Despite working in the Badger State Kregal's allegiance has stayed with the Fighting Illini football program where he holds season tickets.

The Amateur Championship is free to attendees and provides a great opportunity to take staffers or family to one of Wisconsin premier golf clubs.



Member 9 With Matt Kregal

1. **First Vehicle?** 1983 Cutlass Supreme.
2. **Favorite Piece of Golf Course Equipment?** Tie – Toro ProCore 648 & all Verticut units
3. **18 Hole Handicap?** High enough that my owners know I am a dedicated superintendent
4. **Current Vehicle?** 2004 Toyota Tundra
5. **Favorite TV Show?** How I Met Your Mother, Big Bang Theory, Two and a Half Men (with Sheen), Seinfeld
6. **Favorite Pro Sports Team?** Cubs, Bears & Fighting Illini
7. **Favorite Main Course Meal?** Steak and Potatoes; Chicago Deep Dish Pizza
8. **Pets?** No Pets
9. **Favorite Thing About Working In Golf Industry?** 180 acre office – what's not to like about that desk

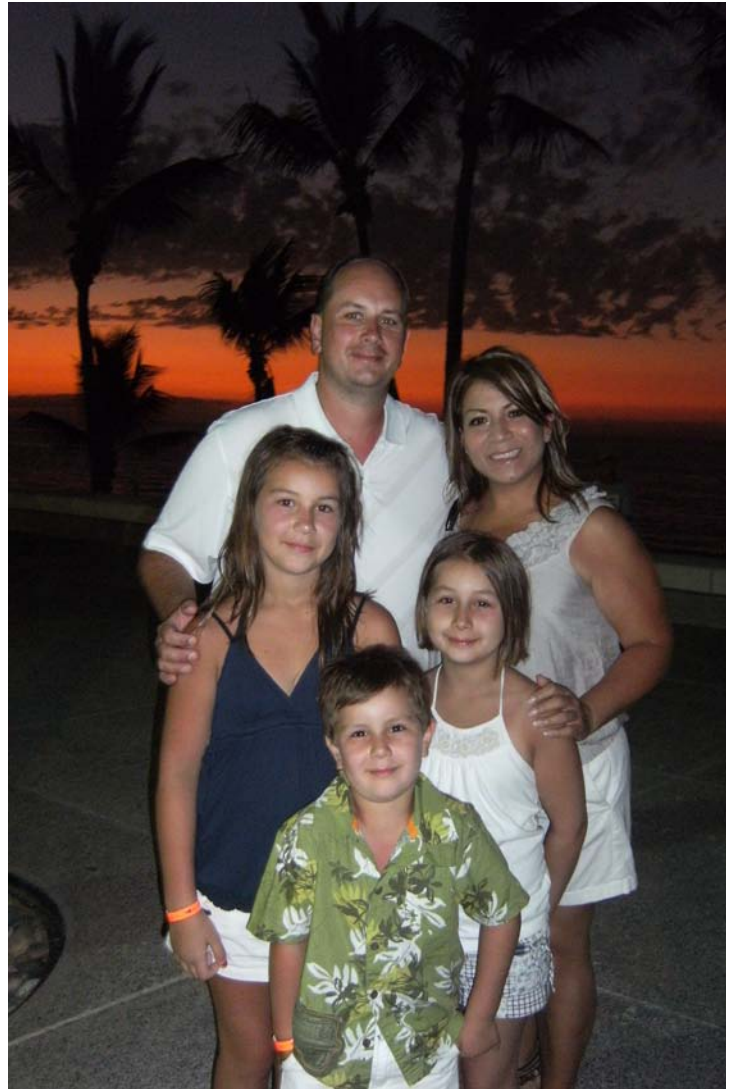
Future WSGA Amateur Championship Sites

2013 - The Bog, Saukville,
Host Superintendent - Anthony Gonzalez

2014 - Ozaukee Country Club, Mequon - Host
Superintendent - Colin Seaberg

2015 - Erin Hills, Erin, Host Superintendent -
Zachary Reineking

Matt, Rosa, Isabel, Hannah and Tyler Kregel enjoy-
ing a beach sunset



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 Superintendents 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.