

## News and Notes From WGCSA Members

By Matt Kinnard and The DHD Team

It is March 21st as I write this and it is most definitely a different story today than as of a year ago. The Weather Channel pointed that out clearly this week using International Falls, MN as the prime example. On March 17th 2012 International Falls had a high of 77° and this year on the same date had a low of -28°. A temperature swing of 105°. Closer to home at DHD World Headquarters in Juneau, WI we had a swing of 72° the date of March 21st from one year to the next. Hard to believe, but that's what is going on. I guess that's how we get averages??? By the time you are all reading this the weather should be warming up, snow melting and if there is any winter damage it will be visible. Good luck to you all.

### Career Moves

**Steve Houlihan** is the new golf course superintendent at Blue Mound Golf and Country Club, Milwaukee. Steve grew up in the golf industry as a nephew of the Shaw brothers and worked for his uncle Jim at Chenequa Country Club in high school. Steve attended college at UW-Madison and received his bachelors degree in 2003 before continuing on to graduate school. Under Dr. Wayne Kusow he completed his Masters degree in 2005.

Meanwhile, Steve had the opportunity to work at Merrill Hills Country Club, Blackwolf Run and the OJ Noer Turfgrass Research Foundation. In 2011, Steve moved on to the Assistants position at Blue Mound Golf and Country Club.

It's been an exciting and busy time for Steve, his wife, Kate, and 16 month old daughter, Aubrey, but he still finds time to actively support the Evans Scholar Foundation, an organization dedicated to sending deserving caddies to college. Congratulations Steve!

Nakoma Country Club, Madison, will see a new face on the golf course this year. **Mike Lemke** has accepted the golf

course superintendents position there. Mike started working at Whispering Springs Golf Course, in Fond du Lac, at age 16 and decided he wanted to make golf course management his career. He went on the graduate from Rutgers University in 2011. Mike was the Assistant Superintendent at Whispering Springs for many years and moved on to become the Assistant Superintendent at The Golf Courses of Lawsonia in 2011. Congratulations Mike!

**Joshua Maladay** was hired as the new Assistant Superintendent at Oconomowoc Golf Club in January. Joshua graduated from Southwest Technical College in 2006 and has past experience working at Erin Hills, Hawks Landing and Winged Foot GC (NY). Joshua was also recently engaged. Congratulations Joshua!

**Gabe Lopez**, formerly of Reinders, has accomplished his lifelong goal of starting his own business. Irrigation Protection Service, located in Delevan, WI recently began servicing customers in Wisconsin and the greater Midwest area and specializes in repair and maintenance of pump stations, field controls and products related to underground irrigation systems. For more information visit [ips911.com](http://ips911.com). Congratulations, Gabe, on your new business!

### Baby News

**Ben Labarre**, Superintendent at The Legends at Bristlecone, Hartland, and his wife, Jen, welcomed home a new baby boy last fall. Brady was born September 5th, weighing in at 5 lbs 20 oz and 20 inches. Big brother Jackson was excited to welcome his new brother home. Con-

gratulations to the Labarre family!

### Awards

The Golf Course Owners of Wisconsin had their annual awards presentation last November. GCOW presents awards for both nine hole and eighteen hole facilities. The award for Best Golf Course Appearance and Maintenance for a 9-hole course was given to Fairfield Hills CC, Baraboo, and to Mid Vallee GC, De Pere, for an 18-hole facility. The Course of the Year award went to Missing Links GC, Mequon, for a 9-hole facility and Geneva National GC, Lake Geneva, for an 18-hole facility. Congratulations to all the winners and the staff members that make it possible!

### Other News



**Kristopher Pinkerton**, Superintendent at Oshkosh County Club landed this 250 pound wild boar while hunting in Alabama in January.

Please pass along any significant news or happenings around the state to Danny, Mike or me. We want to spread the good news. You can also email me at [m.kinnard@sbcglobal.net](mailto:m.kinnard@sbcglobal.net) or call at 920-210-9059.