

News and Notes From WGCSA Members

By Matt Kinnard and The DHD Team

It is a very busy time of year for all of us, so lets get right to the news.

Career Moves

Eric Jasin has been promoted to the position of Director of Buildings and Grounds at Lake Arrowhead Golf Course in Neokosa, WI. Eric hired two new superintendents for the two eighteen hole golf course there.

Tom Speltz has been hired as the new Superintendent of the Pines Course at Lake Arrowhead. Tom spent the last two years as the superintendent at Tempealeau Mountain Golf Course. He worked on the summer crew at Hartford Country Club in high school and after acquiring his Turf Degree from Anoka Technical College he worked at North Hills Country Club, Menomonee Falls, as Randy DuPont's Assistant Superintendent for seven years. Tom is an avid bow hunter, so if he's not out on the course in the fall, you'll find him in a bow stand.

At age sixteen, Adam Freeman, started working on the Lakes Course at Lake Arrowhead during the build and grow in; now he is the new Superintendent at the course. Between summers working at Lake Arrowhead, Adam graduated from UW-La Cross in 2005 with a degree in Marketing and Economics.

Unfortunately, right out of college, he wasn't happy working in marketing or sales (huh?), and wanted to get back on the golf course. With some encouragement from Eric Jasin, Adam went back to school at Rutgers University and received the Turf Management Certificate in 2009. Adam had the opportunity to intern at Pebble Beach for two years and from 2011-2013 was the Assistant Superintendent at Minoqua Country Club.

Congratulations to Eric, Tom and Adam on your new positions at Lake Arrowhead!

Originally from the great city of Fargo, North Dakota, Cris Kittleson has been named the new Superintendent at Bristol

Oaks Golf Club in Bristol (Kenosha), WI. Cris received his Bachelors in Turf Management from the University of Minnesota - Crookston. While in college he completed his internship at Lake Geneva Country Club in 2004. After graduating he took the Assistants position at Lac La Belle GC (now Rolling Hills GC) for a year before settling down as the Superintendent at Country Club Estates in Fontana for seven years. Cris must have really impressed his Country Club Estates General Manager, Maria, because they are now engaged to be married. Aside from working on the course, Cris stays busy flipping houses and religiously following NCAA hockey. Congratulations Cris!

Dan Meidl accepted the position of golf course superintendent at the nine hole track, Bridgewood Golf Course in Neenah WI. Dan graduated from Gateway Technical College with a degree in Horticulture and Turf Management and was the superintendent at Weywont Run Country Club in Weyauwega, WI for many years. He also spent time working at Kenosha Country Club and Waupaca Country Club. I think Jazz, Dan's Rhodesian Ridgeback, is going to have a lot of fun running around Bridgewood. Congratulations Dan!

If you're going to experience working at only one golf course, Erin Hills might be the best place to do such a thing. Alex Beson-Crone has been hired as the new Assistant Superintendent at Erin Hills Golf Course. In 2005 Alex was taking some time off from what he was currently studying in college and began working at Erin Hills during the construction of the course in 2005. While working there, he found he had a growing interest in golf course maintenance and with a little encouragement from Superintendent Zach Reineking, Alex went back to school and graduated with a B.S. in Soil Science from UW-Madison in 2012. Congratulations Alex!

Jacob Rath is excited to move back to his hometown after accepting the position of Assistant GC Superintendent at North Shore Country Club in Menasha. He graduated from the University of Wisconsin - Stout in 2012. While in college Jake interned at Blackhawk CC in Madison for two summers, then spent 2012 as the Assistant Superintendent at Bishops Bay CC in Madison. Like so many of us, what started out as a summer job at the age of 16, he said, has turned into a career and something that he truly loves. Congratulations Jake!

Baby News

Steve Blake, the golf course superintendent at Ridgeway Country Club in Neenah, WI, welcomed his new daughter, Adeline Mae into the world on February 12th. At birth, Adeline Mae weighed 8 lbs 6oz and was 19" long. Congratulations to you and your family, Steve.

Passings

The Northern Great Lakes Golf Course Superintendents Association lost a long time active member and past president with the passing of Steven Spears on May 6, 2013.

The 48 year old Spears was superintendent at St. Germain Golf Club for the past 17 years.

He and his wife Marci lived in Sugar Camp with their two children Ethan and Ella.

A memorial golf tournament was held June 11 to raise funds for Ethan and Ella's education.

Participation is key for the success of this article, so please don't hesitate to forward any news you would like to share about yourself, employees or colleagues to me.

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 or call at 920-210-9059. 