

Bruce Schweiger Heads Turfgrass Diagnostic Lab

By David Brandenburg, Golf Course Manager, Rolling Meadows Golf Course & Monroe Miller, WGCSA Chapter Historian

Editors Note: Many parts of this article is from a introduction Chapter Historian, Monroe Miller gave when Bruce Schweiger was introduced at the May Meeting at North Hills Country Club.

There are few in the Wisconsin turf industry that do not know Bruce Schweiger as he has been involved in different ways since the early 1980's. But as much as we know Bruce many of us were surprised to hear he was going to succeed Dr. Paul Koch as the Manager of the Turfgrass Diagnostic Lab of the O.J. Noer Turfgrass Research and Education Facility.

Although we were surprised we also had a immediate comfortable feeling the lab is in good hands.

Bruce grew up in Madison, the son of a eastside pharmacist and early on he considered following his fathers footsteps until he determined pill counting was not that much fun. He entered UW Madison in the pre-pharmacy program but after two years of pharmacology the call of the golf course was too much.

Schweiger got his start as a summer employee at Maple Bluff Country Club and took a liking to outdoors and turfgrass management. After a talk with Dr. J.R. Love schweiger enrolled in the Soil Science Turfgrass Program and graduated in 1982 with a double major in soil science and horticulture. After college his experience at Maple Bluff Country Club with Tom Harrison allowed him to be hired as the golf course superintendent of Riverside Golf Course in Janesville.

Schweiger was promoted to general manager in 1985 and stayed in Janesville until 1989 when Tom Wentz hired him to work for OM Scotts and Son. He served as the regional sales manager for northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin for almost 11 years.

Bruce took that experience to Reinders in January of 2000 and spent another 10 years as an agronomist for them working with customers and sales staff. In 2006 he took a brief break from Reinders to serve as general manager of Marengo Ridge Golf Club in Marengo, IL.

In 2010 Bruce became the regional agronomist for Midwest Turf Products and served as such for almost 3 years when he took his current position.

Although his predecessors have had more experience in turf pathology I am sure Bruce will lead the lab into the future. He will have good teachers with former lab manager Dr. Paul Koch available to help him when needed as well as the rest of the UW-Madison turf team.

Schweiger and his wife Carol have three boys, Paul, Brad and Scott. With a attorney, a professor and an accountant in the family Bruce should be ready for any problem the family faces.

Through his 24 years in the turf industry Bruce has seen every turfgrass issue possible and has been involved in the

construction or re-construction of 1,000 golf holes as well as sports complexes and landscape projects.

Carol does safety inspection, training and consulting work and met her husband to be in Dr. Jim Love's Soil Science 301 class.

Although a accomplished player golf has taken a back seat to other hobbies such as hunting and fishing along with consulting work Bruce does.

Welcome aboard and congratulations Bruce Schweiger! 



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Above: Bruce Schweiger at the Noer Center

Below: Bruce has been involved in the industry a long time as proven by this picture of him helping Joe Wollner draw prizewinners.



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