

News and Notes From WGCSA Members

By Matt Kinnard and The DHD Team

The cold blustery days of winter we are accustomed to here in Wisconsin have been that and then some this January. At the start of the New Year, I was making plans to simply not go outside at all during the brunt of the predicted negative degree temperatures and double-digit negative degree wind chills... my plan, however, soon unraveled. A buddy of mine called me on January 2nd and said, 'We are going to the Packer playoff game, you're coming, and I won't take no for an answer.' So, naturally my answer was, 'NO!' It didn't take much persuading though with the argument that this could be the best, stupid idea he's ever had.

It was game day and my three friends and I arrived at Lambeau, with temperatures that could be described as cold, equipped with multiple layers, hand warmers and a couple bottles of contraband. We made a quick tailgate stop just steps from the Oneida Gate for a couple pregame apple pie shotski's and in we went. The rest is history and although it was a good game, it didn't turn out like us Packer fans had hoped. As it turns out, it was only the seventh coldest game in history at Lambeau for those of us in the stands, but if you couldn't tell on TV, we all had a great time!

Career Moves

Kenosha Country Club has hired **Paul Bastron** as its new golf course superintendent. It's an exciting opportunity for Paul, made that much better because he has made the Kenosha area his home for the last ten years. He's established an impressive career here in the Midwest, most notably as the Superintendent at Glen Flora Country Club in Waukegan, IL from 1987-2011. Paul was also the Superintendent at Ottumwa Country Club in Ottumwa, IA for three years in the mid eighties. His education background includes two degrees, one from Indian Hills Community College in Iowa and the other from Michigan State University where he graduated from the Turfgrass Management

Program. Most recently Paul gave sales a shot traveling Wisconsin and Illinois for JW Turf and Midwest Turf Products. He also serves on the board of the Wee One Foundation, which we can all appreciate. Congratulations Paul!


Jon Dippel has been hired as the Assistant Superintendent at Oshkosh Country Club. Jon started his golf career at Pine Hills Country Club in Sheboygan while acquiring his bachelor's degree in science at Lakeland College. Working for Rod Johnson at Pine Hills inspired Jon to further his education and complete his Turf Management Certificate from Penn State in 2010. Jon went on to work as the Assistant Superintendent at New Berlin Hills Golf Course and The Wisconsin Club in Milwaukee. John is married to his high school sweetheart Brittany and they have a 4 year old son, Logan. Congratulations Jon and much success at OCC!

Ben Pease a graduate of the University of Wisconsin and most recently Assistant Superintendent at Whistling Straits accepted the position of Turf Research Facility Superintendent at North Carolina State University. In addition Ben participated in the Ironman Wisconsin Triathlon, in Madison on September 8th. The triathlon consists of a 2.4 mile swim, 112 mile bike ride, and 26.2 mile run. Ben took 35 minutes off his 2011 time and finished in 11 hours, 51 minutes and 50 seconds and placed a very impressive 483rd out of 2,544 competitors despite

whitecap waves and biking into the wind. He said, 'It wouldn't have been possible without the support of my family, friends, coworkers, and the thousands of spectators.' Congratulations Ben on your impressive accomplishment and new job!

Sold!

The historic Old Hickory Golf Club was recently sold to new owner/operator Mark Bergman. For the last seven years Mark was the head golf Professional at Merrill Hills in Waukesha, WI. He was looking for a new challenge and Old Hickory provided him with the perfect opportunity. Old Hickory was established in the 1920's originally designed by Tom Bendelow with Billy Sixty adding nine holes. **Lee Mahnke** is the superintendent. Congratulations Mark!

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. 



John Kuhn scores big, but seconds later, ugh... falls short with a Lambeau Leap attempt.