

## State Amateur At Ozaukee Country Club

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

Ozaukee Country Club was a perfect host for the 113th Wisconsin State Golf Association State Amateur Tournament. Ozaukee was designed by the Chicago team of Bill Langford and Theodore Moreau with construction finishing in 1922. According to the club's website the course, the clubhouse and all related equipment was provided for around \$300,000.

Ozaukee has a long history of tournament golf and has hosted the Amateur in 1926, 1942, 1962 and 1989. The course also hosted the Western Open in 1929 which was won by Tommy Armour.

Playing around 6,750 yards the course isn't long by current standards but par is well protected by tree lined fairways, thick rough, large undulating greens with steep green banks.

To enter the 72 hole stroke play event players need have a handicap 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 providing a good reason why they cannot do so. 168 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.



The par five 5th hole plays 548 yards uphill to a green well protected by bunkers.

### 2014 WSGA Amateur Championship Qualifying Sites

DISTRICT #1A: The Golf Club at Cedar Creek, Onalaska

DISTRICT #1B: New Richmond GC, New Richmond

DISTRICT #2: Wausau CC, Wausau

DISTRICT #3: Oakwood Park GC, Franklin

DISTRICT #4: Cherokee CC, Madison

DISTRICT #5: South Hills G&CC, Fond du Lac

DISTRICT #6A: River Club of Mequon, Mequon

DISTRICT #6B: Washington County GC, Hartford

DISTRICT #6C: Watertown CC, Watertown



# COVER STORY

WSGA Director of Rules and Competition Bill Linneman was quoted by Gary D'Amato in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel as saying the "winning score will be well above par". The first day it looked as though Bill would be proven wrong when Robbie Ziegler shot a four under par 66 and held on to stay 3 under par after 36 holes. On day three reality set in and Linneman was proven correct as Alex Gaugert won the 72 hole event with a total score of 6 over par 286 beating three day leader Robbie Ziegler who finished at 8 over par.

The Yule Cup was won by Hawks Landing by two strokes over Brown Deer Golf Club 442 compared to 444. In news reports and talking to the players I knew the course and its conditions were very well received. Some of Bill Linneman's pin placements were cursed under the breath of some players but overall this old course showed it can still challenge the states best players.



Par3 9th hole plays 176 yards.

The upper view from the tee shows a narrow path to the tucked pin in the lower picture.

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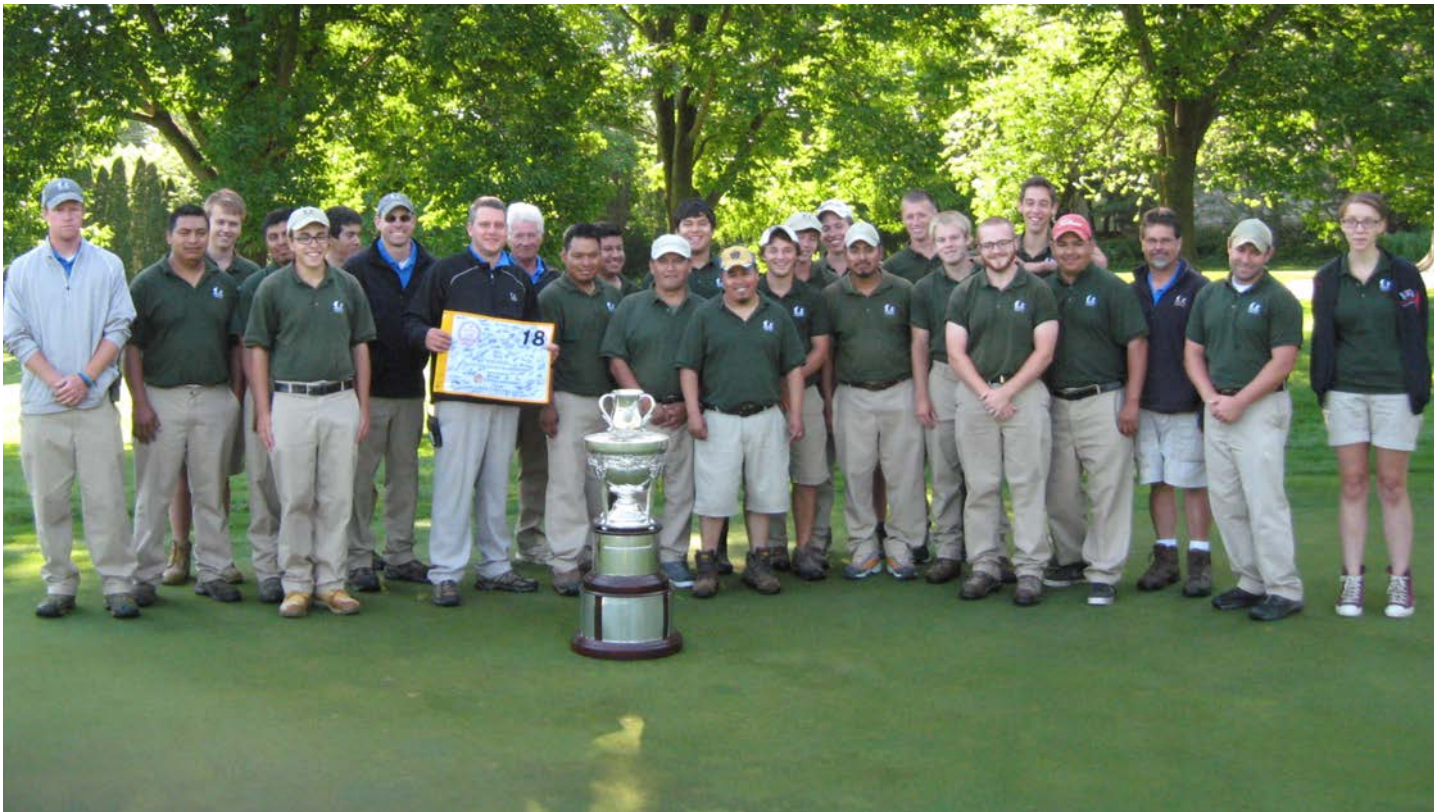
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## Member 9 With Brett Hosler

1. **First Vehicle?** 1964 Chevrolet Impala that I bought in high school. It had a 283 that I built into a 327.
2. **Favorite Piece of Golf Course Equipment?** As much as I love my topdressing and large fertilization equipment like the Toro ProPass, MH-400 and Vicon Spreader, I'd have to say that my favorite piece is an old, 5-gang, cement-filled roller. I'm not sure who made it or what year it was purchased but we have plans to refurbish and install a hydraulic ram lift system and use as a greens roller.
3. **18 Hole Handicap?** 12ish
4. **Current Vehicle?** 2014 Mitsubishi Evolution MR; I'll never not own a turbocharged car after driving this one.
5. **Favorite TV Show?** Mostly car related shows or MLB and NFL games. I like to follow the WRC and professional sports.
6. **Favorite Pro Sports Team?** Milwaukee Brewers
7. **Favorite Main Course Meal?** A good pizza or large porterhouse. I can't decide between the two.
8. **Pets?** I have a seven-year-old Siberian Husky named Kane.
9. **Favorite Thing About Working In Golf Industry?** Knowing that what we do provides happiness for those who have a passion for the game of golf. It's the greatest game on earth. I can think of no greater professional success than to have those with discerning tastes think we have been successful.



The Ozaukee Country Club Maintenance Staff.

# COVER STORY

Brett Hosler joined Ozaukee Country Club in 2008 as an assistant superintendent under Colin Seaberg. Brett said he learned a lot from Colin and continues to hold him in the highest regard. Brett took over as golf course superintendent in May of 2013 as has loved it so far.

Hosler's previous work included and assistant superintendent at Evansville Country Club in Evansville, IN where Brett spent time with transition zone grasses and conditions. He started in the industry as a college student at the University of Kentucky working as a seasonal at the Pete and P.B. Dye designed Kearney Hill Golf Links.

Although Hosler hated getting up early he enjoyed being outdoors and had a tremendous amount of respect for the superintendent. After graduating with a BA in Psychology in 2002 Brett continued his education at Eastern Kentucky University where he graduated with distinction with a AS in Technical Agriculture in 2003.

When I asked Brett what the challenges of Ozaukee Country Club layout he said "Wanting to spend two million a year on the golf course and having less than that to work with. Ozaukee is a wonderful property/golf course; having to follow legendary and great superintendents such as Wayne Otto and Colin Seaberg is a bit daunting. I'm fortunate to have an excellent staff."

Brett was quick to recognize his full time and seasonal staff members as the ones who make Ozaukee what it is.

Congratulations to Brett and the entire staff for providing a great tournament course for the 113th State Amateur Championship.

## Ozaukee Country Club Grounds Maintenance Managers

**Brett Hosler - Golf Course Superintendent**

**Karl Wehausen - Assistant Superintendent**

**Bryan Fenney - Assistant Superintendent**

**Dan Dommer - Equipment Manager**

**Mark Bednarek - Horticulturist**

**Left: Mowing (Top) and divot filling (bottom) on the 392 yard par4 3rd hole.**

**Top Right: Hand watering on the 416 yard par4 7th hole.**

**Bottom Right: The challenging 188 yard par3 16th hole is well protected by water and sand.**





## Future WSGA Amateur Championship Sites

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

2016 - North Shore Golf Club, Menasha, Host Superintendent - Scott Schaller

2017 - Oconomowoc Club, Oconomowoc, Host Superintendent - Dustin Riley

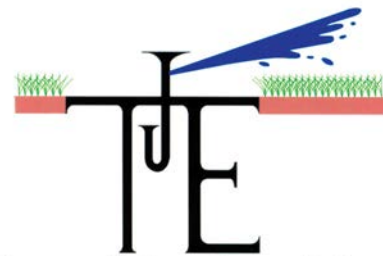


**Top:** The tucked pin on the par3 200 yard 14th hole shows how challenging tournament golf can be.

**Top Middle:** The green bank on the Par4 449 yard 13th hole shows the penalty for missing a green at the Langford and Moreau layout.

**Bottom Middle:** The Par5 15th hole plays 497 yards from the back tees.

**Bottom:** Ozaukee has a number of beautiful plantings as shown by this one between the 2nd and 7th tees.



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# COVER STORY

*Editors Note: Below is part of the first correspondence from Brett Hosler, Golf Course Superintendent, Ozaukee Country Club to the membership when he took over as interim superintendent. The letter highlights his appreciation for Ozaukee Country Club and its rich history.*

Dear Membership of Ozaukee Country Club,

I'd like to reintroduce myself to you all as I was promoted to interim superintendent of the Ozaukee Country Club on May 11th of this year. My name is Brett Hosler, I want to thank those responsible for providing me with this opportunity. I'd also like to thank Colin Seaberg for hiring me as his assistant in 2008.

I was born in Cedarburg Wisconsin in 1979. Shortly thereafter and continuing throughout my life, I have moved all over the Midwest and have lived in a variety of different places. In the past, when people would ask me where I was from, I usually didn't know what to say...I'm home now.

My family history at OCC and in this area is deeply rooted. My great grandfather, William F. Schanen was a prominent attorney in Ozaukee County and longtime member of OCC beginning in the mid 1920's. He provided legal services for our club during that time. He never took social security and never retired. Although an absolutely horrendous golfer, it

didn't prevent him from playing our course almost daily. My grandfather, James W. Hosler, my grandmother Dorothy M. Hosler and my father Kirk Hosler were members of OCC in the late 1960's. My father actually bought his first set of clubs, Wilson Staffs, from Bobby Brue in December of 1967. I'm unsure as to how well they worked out for him as he was only able to win two runner-up trophies from a couple different club events during that time. Around this time, my parents had just met and actually had one of their first dates over dinner at our club. My other grandfather, Gerald Gruen, was among other great things, one time mayor of Glendale. My 3rd great grandfather, Henry Thien, founded Thiensville. None of this, of course, means that I will be a great superintendent. My ability, knowledge, work ethic, and leadership proven to our membership over this season provides an opportunity to convince. Expect the course conditions you've seen over the past few years. Expect what members of our club deserve.

I fully expect to continue the tradition of what makes our golf course so unique and admired by so many. I'm honored to have been given this opportunity and hope to meet more of you over this season. Thank you for the opportunity to gain your trust. Feel free to contact me at [brett@ozaukeecc.com](mailto:brett@ozaukeecc.com) if you have any questions or comments and I'll get back to you as soon as I can.



Top: The par5 2nd hole shown from the tee and from the green plays 505 yards from the back tees.

Mowing on the 10th hole. This 435 yard par 4 is protected by a bunker and water on the right side of the green.

