

News and Notes From WGCSA Members

By Matt Kinnard, Pro Turf Solutions

Career Moves

Lake Geneva Country Club has hired a new Superintendent. **Jeff Heaton** was brought on in February to manage the historic country club grounds, built in 1895. Jeff earned a BA in English from The University of Puget Sound in 2000 and later went on to successfully acquire a BS in Agronomy from Texas A&M in 2007. Jeff has a long resume that includes some impressive golf courses including: Sahalee Country Club in Redmond, WA, Texas A&M Golf Course at College Station, TX, Bandon Dunes in Bandon, OR, Golf Club at Ravenna in Littleton CO, Cherry Hills CC in Englewood, CO and most recently as an Assistant at Shoreacres CC in Lake Bluff, IL.

Jeff and his wife, Jenny, have a one-year-old son named Colton. Although he enjoys hitting the links, it looks like a busy year ahead for Jeff. Congratulations on your new job, Jeff!

Retirement

Long time Wisconsin Superintendent, **Doug DeVries**, decided it was time to move on to the next phase of his life,

retirement. Doug was the superintendent at Reid Municipal Golf Course for a staggering thirty-two years until he officially retired on Jan 3 of this year. In his final year Doug oversaw a major storm water project on the golf course grounds that included the renovation of multiple holes. He said, 'It's been a long, good run. I'm going out on my own terms, so it's a nice departure. I wanted to stick around until the storm water project got done, and I think that was very successful. We'll open as an 18-hole golf course in the spring, and that was my biggest goal. It was the end of my career and I wanted to stick around and make sure that was completed.'

Doug graduated from the University of Illinois with a degree in turfgrass management. During college he worked at Lincolnshire Fields CC in Champaign, IL and interned at Olympia Fields CC. After graduation he began his career as an Assistant Superintendent at Oak Park CC in Chicago. His first superintendent position was at Pepperdine GC in Sturgeon Bay, WI for its construction and grown in. Doug then went on

to be the superintendent at Berry Hills CC in Charleston, WV and Wadena CC in Wadena, MN before moving to Appleton in 1981 for the Reid position.

Doug expressed an incredible amount of appreciation to his wife, Sue, of 36 years for supporting him during his entire turf management career. He said without her it would not have been possible. Now, Doug and Sue will have plenty of time to enjoy retirement playing golf, trout fishing, motorcycling, horse back riding and camping as well as spending time with their two granddaughters. Congratulations Doug!


Birth

Tom Speltz, golf course superintendent at The Pines Course of Lake Arrowhead in Wisconsin Rapids welcomed a baby girl into the world. Charlie Brynn was born on January 14th at 21 inches long and 6 lbs 13 oz. Congratulations Tom!

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 Edgewater GC in Grafton and to Edgewood Golf Course in Big Bend for an 18 – hole facility. The Course of the Year award went to perennial winner, Missing Links GC, Mequon, for a 9 – hole facility and Lake Arrowhead Golf Course in Wisconsin Rapids, for an 18-hole facility. Congratulations to all the winners!

Oh, and before I forget, I started my own business called PROturf Solutions.

Please call or email me with any significant news or happenings around the state so we can spread the good news. I can be reached at matt@pro-turfsolutions.com or (262) 720-0251 



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