

25 Year Members!

By Kevin Knudtson, Golf Course Superintendent, Geneva National Golf Course

Jim Van Herwynen – CGCS at South Hills Golf and Country Club

Jim was inspired to get in the business at the age of 16 by working with Roger Bell at North Shore Golf Club in Menasha, WI. Jim worked at North Shore from 1983 – 1989. He then worked at Blackhawk Country Club. After a few years at Blackhawk he moved on to Kenosha Country Club from 1991-1996. In 1996, he took the job at South Hills Golf and Country Club and has been there ever since. Jim was born and raised in Combined Locks, WI and went to Kimberly High School. He has been married to his wife Kimm for 22 years. They have two children, Mitchell who is 16 and Madelyn who is 14.

During Jim's free time he enjoys model railroads and railfanning. Jim stays busy working on home improvement projects. When Jim finds time he loves to camp and take impromptu road trips

Mike Lyons – GCS at Golf Courses of Lawsonia

The love of the game of golf is what inspired Mike to become a golf course superintendent. Twenty five years ago Mike started at West Bend Country Club under Bruce Worzella and graduated from the UW of Madison. He then moved on to Pine Hills Country Club to work for Rod Johnson from 1989-1995. From there he moved on to Old Hickory Country Club from 1996 – 2010. Since then he has been the golf course superintendent for Oliphant Golf Management at the Golf Courses of Lawsonia.

Mike was born in Chicago but grew up in West Bend. He has 3 children at ages 14, 16, and 18.

During Mike's free time he enjoys to watch his kids play sports and play golf.

David Brandenburg – CGCS at Rolling Meadows Golf Course

David has been in the golf course industry since 1984 which started at Sunset Hills Golf Course in Beaver Dam. While David was at Sunset Hills he did such a good job doing dishes they moved him outside to

work on the grounds during the day and wash dishes at night. The first two days he push mowed and string trimmed around trees. He was then hooked. David's summer job called to him a lot more than his plans to be an accountant and here he is. David worked there from 1984-1988. He then became the superintendent at Camelot Country Club from 1988-1992. He then worked 2 seasons as superintendent at Lake Windsor Country Club. David went back to Camelot from 1994 – 1996. After Camelot, he has been at Rolling Meadows Golf Course as superintendent/general manager.

David was born in Marion, WI but moved to Beaver Dam in the second grade on a farm with horses, chickens and occasionally sheep. David and his wife Noelle have been married for 25 years. He has two children. Kayla is a graduate from UW Green Bay, looking for a job in Psychology and Andrew is a sophomore at UW Oshkosh.

David's hobbies include writing and editing a magazine called *The Grass Roots*. He is village board member in Theresa and enjoys casting a fishing pole.

Jeff Ruesch – CGCS at Grand View Golf Club

In 1971, Jeff started as an employee at The Ridges Golf Club in Wisconsin Rapids. David Murgatroyd, who was the superintendent at The Ridges, encouraged Jeff to pursue the profession. Jeff then did a summer internship at Nakoma Golf Club in Madison under Randy Smith. From 1978-1983, Jeff was the superintendent at New London Country Club. Jeff then moved on to Butte Des Morts Golf Club in Appleton as an assistant for Steve Schmidt.

During the last 25 years Jeff has been the superintendent at Grand View Golf Club in Hortonville.

Jeff was born and raised in Wisconsin Rapids. Jeff and his wife Jill of 28 years reside in New London. They have two children, Malary a secondary English teacher and Mitchell a mechanical engineer.

During Jeff's free time he likes to play guitar, hunt, fly fish, spend time at his hunting

camp, and go on his annual trip to Montana.

Roy Janzen – GCS at Forest Hills Golf Course

Roy's first experience on a golf course was going to the Sparta Golf Course with a friend to pick up lost golf balls. He didn't think about balls being in play until a lady started hollering at him. After high school he started working on the Sparta Golf Course. His brother, an agronomist, suggested he followed his footsteps and that is what he did. Roy earned a degree at UW of Madison in Turf and Grounds Management under Dr. Love. After graduation he worked as an assistant golf course superintendent at Oshkosh Country Club for a little over a year, before accepting the superintendent position at High Cliff Golf Course in Sherwood. In 2009, he became superintendent at Forest Hills Golf Course in Lacrosse for Kemper Sports.

Roy was born and raised in Sparta, WI. Roy and his wife Liz have two children, Maggie who works for Shreiber foods in Logan, UT and David who is an IT specialist.

In Roy's free time he enjoys Badger and Packer football. Roy is on an adult ski race league and a 33 year member of the National Ski Patrol. He enjoys teaching his grandson how to ski and drive golf cart. Also the constant upkeep of his 100+ year old home keeps him busy.

Mark Gorzlanzyk – GCS at Wander Springs Golf Course

Mark played and worked at Fox Hills Golf Club growing up which is what inspired Mark to pursue his career. The last 25 years Mark has been at Wander Springs Golf Course.

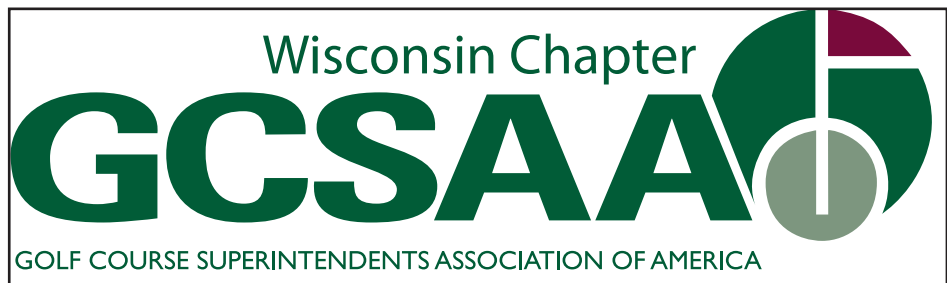
Mark grew up in Mishicot, WI. Mark loves to hang out with his dog Echo. If Mark isn't at home or working he is probably out on his motorcycle cruising the countryside of Wisconsin or surrounding states

Larry Lennert – Aquatrols

Larry attended UW-Madison with the idea of being a Landscape Architect. When he discovered there was a two year waiting period to get into the LA program, he majored in Horticulture and waited. When he was a sophomore, Larry took Dr. Bob Newman's turfgrass management course and did pretty well. Dr. Newman noticed, and asked him if he knew there was a turfgrass management program in the Department of Soil Science under the direction of Dr. J.R. Love. Larry didn't, but he went to meet with Dr. Love and he ended up double majoring in Horticulture and Soil Science, and got into the turfgrass management program.

After Larry graduated, he was Roger Bell's assistant at North Shore Country Club in Menasha for a little over a year during 1985 – 1986. In 1986, Dr. Kussow offered him the opportunity to go back to school and pursue a Masters Degree in Soil Science and research foliar iron applications on turfgrass, which he was honored to accept. When Larry finished his graduate coursework and research, he went to work for Rod Johnson at Pine Hills Country Club in Sheboygan as his assistant for several years.

He then became the golf course superintendent at Hillcrest Country Club in St. Paul, MN. After a relatively short stay in the land of Gophers and Vikings, Larry moved back to Wisconsin and took a sales and research job with Milorganite, and held various positions there for six years. Next up was four years at Profile Products during the peak of the golf course



construction boom, where he helped them with sales and research for their soil amendment product Profile.

For the last 14 years, Larry has been a Territory Manager for Aquatrols which covers 12.5 states

Larry was born in Chicago, IL, but his family moved to Kaukauna, WI when he was four years old. Larry and his wife Gail have been married almost 27 years. They have two children, Jack and Elli. They have lived in Greenfield, WI since 1991.

Larry loves taking care of his lawn (you still can't take the golf course superintendent out of him) and doing a little landscaping around the house. He is a big sports fan, and he attends most home Badger football games.

Larry feels very blessed and lucky to have met so many good people in the golf and turf industry, many who have helped him tremendously during the course of my career. He sends thanks to everyone who has helped him along the way. Larry hopes He can "pay it forward" somewhat before his career is over.

**Dave Van Auken – GCS at Antigo
Bass Lake Country Club**

Dave was back in Colorado Springs,

working as an accountant when he realized that wasn't the job for him. He took advantage of his wife's relationship (they played soccer together), with the wife of the Superintendent at the Broadmoor Hotel and its 3 championship courses. It was when Dave spent his first day on the golf course with a push mower and string trimmer that he truly found something special.

Dave began as a crew member at the Broadmoor West Course in 1981. During that summer the Superintendent of the East Course called him into his office and was offered the irrigation tech position and worked his way up to construction superintendent.

He then began the journey of parenthood while in Colorado, but Kohler was building and the brats were calling. He joined Black Wolf Run as an assistant in September of 1989, leaving his wife and three kids behind to manage through a winter at 8,900 feet above sea level. This is by far the hardest thing he has ever done. Dave spent six years at Blackwolf, responsible for the finish construction of the "4th nine", and then managed the River Course once it opened in 1990.

He went to Iron Mountain, MI in 1995 as Superintendent and Owners Rep for the construction of TimberStone Golf Course. From there he went to help out with Royal St. Patrick's. He then spent some idle time on Lake Winnebago which he truly enjoyed.

After some time off he ran into the Wasers, (Steve and Rob) and the Lesco truck came calling. Jumped on board with both feet and found destiny again. In 2005 Dave became the superintendent at Bass Lake.

Dave was born in Colorado Springs CO, the third of seven children, but found their way to Sheboygan, WI. Dave is married to his wife Deb of 34 years have 3 children and 4 grandchildren. Dave loves to fish during his free time. Most of all he loves spoiling and spending time with his grandchildren.

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