

Badger State Turf Clippings

By Tom Wentz and the Reinders Team

When you read this, we will already have a good start into 2006. As I write this, in December, this month has already been the coldest in 20 years. The snow cover that came in late November is still covering us. For those who may have missed your snow mold fungicide treatment, we can only hope for a winter thaw. If you believe the reports that we are facing global warming, then the thaw shouldn't be too far behind!! The winter months provide a break for many to catch up on their reading of turfgrass trade magazines that have piled up through the summer. Take the time to catch up on the latest research, trends in the industry, or ideas that have worked for other superintendents that you may find helpful in 2006. Of course the regional trade shows and the GIS are opportunities to learn about ways our industry is changing and improving. I hope all of you plan on attending.

Bagged the BIG Buck!!

Congratulations go to **Dennis Dary**, sales rep for Wisconsin Turf, who shot what may be the biggest deer this season in Wisconsin!! He shot an 18-point buck that weighed in at 215 lbs. Fortunately he did not have to drag it very far. Dennis said he has been hunting since he was 13 years old. I'm not sure if it was luck or experience, but needless to say it was his biggest ever. The likelihood of getting this size of deer is about like getting a hole-in-one twice on the same hole on the same day!! According to the Boone & Crockett rating, this buck rated a 191 3/8. To put this in perspective, any rating over 170 is a once in a lifetime catch. Dennis,

as you can imagine, is having it mounted. They are hoping to have it mounted in time for the Turkey and Deer Expo being held in Madison in March 2006. So if you want to catch a glimpse of it, come on over to the Expo.

Wisconsin Superintendent Updates

Allan Fude, golf course superintendent of Rock River CC in Waupun, has left and moved out west to a new golf course.

Jamie Plomedahl, superintendent at Hiawatha GC in Tomah, has left to take the job as superintendent at Winona GC in Winona, MN.

Mike Krupke is the new superintendent at Decatur Lakes GC in Brodhead. Mike came up from Illinois where he had served as superintendent for nine years at Wolf Hollow GC. Mike is returning to his Wisconsin hometown.

New Assistant Superintendents

Michael Bremmer has taken the job as assistant superintendent at Brynwood CC in Milwaukee. Michael came over from Geneva National where he has been since May 2004. Michael is a graduate of UW-River Falls with a horticulture major. He also interned under Monroe Miller at Blackhawk CC.

Westmoor CC has hired two new assistant superintendents. **Bryan Bergner** came over from New Berlin Hills GC. Bryan received his degree from UW-Milwaukee in Criminal Justice and a two year degree in turfgrass from Penn State. He is a former PGA apprentice as well. Phil Spitz will be joining Westmoor CC as an assistant in February. He is coming home to Wisconsin after spending time working in the Cincinnati area at Wetherington

GC and The Camargo Club, one of the top clubs in the US. He is a graduate of UW-Madison with a BS in Turfgrass management. He worked under Wayne Kussow as a lab assistant at the OJ Noer Facility from 1999-2001 and was a student intern at Blackhawk CC.

Wisconsin Industry News

Steve Abler has joined Syngenta Professional Products division as sales representative for Wisconsin. Many of you know Steve from his work at the TDL diagnostic lab at the OJ Noer Center. Steve received his BS in Biology from UW Oshkosh and his Masters in Plant Pathology from Virginia Tech where the late Houston Couch advised him. We will be seeing more of Steve in person as he travels the state.

Weddings and Births

Dave Swift, superintendent at Whistling Straits GC, was married on August 26th to Shelly. The wedding was held at The Bull at Pinehurst Farms. They delayed the honeymoon until the growing season was over, and enjoyed beautiful weather on the island of St. Lucia near Barbados in December.

Jeff Rottier, superintendent at Erin Hills GC, and his wife Hillary welcomed their first child, a baby boy, Isaac James, born on October 19th. The baby weighed in at 8 lbs 13 oz.

Tom Bottensek, superintendent at Westridge GC and his wife had a baby girl, Emily, on Dec. 19th.

In the hopes of capturing all the significant news from around the state, please pass along any updates to me or any of your Reinders reps. You can email me at twentz@reinders.com or call me at 608-220-6592. 🌿