

Badger State Turf Clippings

By Tom Wentz and the Reinders Team

When I opened the July/August issue of the Grass Roots and saw the title to Mike Lyons' President's message... I about fell over. "Rain Please!!" Be careful what you wish for, and certainly for all of us in the southern half of Wisconsin, we have had enough rain already! I know that was not the case in northern regions of the state and we certainly would have liked to share the wealth, but Mother Nature had a better idea.

Rainfall totals varied significantly from the western part to the eastern part of the state. I feel for the flood-ravaged areas of Gays Mills, LaCrosse, Kenosha, and many other parts. A golf course just southwest of Madison reported 29 1/2 inches of rain since August 5th. Much of the Madison area received 17- 20 inches during this 3-week time span in August. The Milwaukee area was spared some of the worst, but rainfall totals still reached 11-13 inches in parts, and other areas were less.

Lightning strikes in Madison took four lives in August, with a lightning bolt killing a golfer at Odana Hills GC. An article in the State Journal had a quote from the wife of the dead golfer that stated her husband shot par on his last two holes before lightning struck him down. A somewhat light hearted comment to a tragic situation. I guess he died doing what he liked to do best.

Lightning can be very powerful, as this photo that **Clark Rowles**, superintendent at Nakoma GC in Madison, took of his former 60-foot pine tree would attest.

When Clark came out to survey the damage, the former 60-foot tree, became a 30-foot tree. As you can see here, the lightning cut the tree in half, and the top half stuck

into the ground right next to the original trunk. The lower half of the tree literally exploded and chunks of the tree were found 50 ft away. A friendly reminder to not mess around when lightning is in the area of the golf course... seek shelter right away!!

In Memoriam

Jerry Berkholtz lost his battle with cancer and passed away on August 25, 2007 at his residence in Ogdensburg. Jerry was active in the turf business as superintendent at Bluemound Golf and Country Club in Wauwatosa. He worked for the Toro Company and Reinders, and more recently was the owner of Glen Cairn GC in Ogdensburg. Jerry had designed and constructed this 18-hole facility, which he operated with his wife Elizabeth. Our thoughts and prayers are extended to his family.

New Bayer Sales Representative

Not really!! We are pleased to welcome John Turner back to

Wisconsin as the sales representative for Bayer Environmental Science in the golf course and sod business. Many of you know John, and the past few years he has been representing Bayer in the Lawn and Landscape area. He is happy to be back into the golf business representing Bayer effective September 8, 2007.

John received his BS degree from Purdue in Turfgrass Management and had worked for 27 years in the turf and ornamental business starting with Upjohn that became Nor Am that became Agrevo that became Bayer in 1997. John comes to us with many solid credentials and leadership recognitions including the Distinguished Service Awards from the Illinois Turfgrass Foundation and the Midwest Regional Turfgrass Foundation. John will represent Bayer in both Wisconsin and Illinois. He and his wife, Pam, reside just west of Chicago in Elburn, IL. Congratulations and welcome back John!!

New Arrival

Congratulations to **Jason and Laura Bell** on the birth of their second child on August 25, 2007. Tyler Robert weighed in at 7 lb 1 oz and joins his sister Lexi to complete their family. Jason is the superintendent at Beaver Dam CC in Beaver Dam. Congratulations!!

As you can see, the weather was the news for August. We don't want to miss any news of achievements; promotions; moves in the business, so pass it along to your Reinders rep or email me at twentz@reinders.com or call me at 608-220-6592. 🌱

